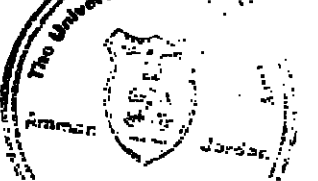


Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى



Tutu urges economic sanctions
JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Bishop Desmond Tutu on Wednesday issued his first outright call for punitive economic sanctions against South Africa, and lawyers for black activist Winnie Mandela said the government had ended 23 years of restrictions on her. Bishop Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his anti-apartheid campaigning, had said several months ago he would risk a charge of treason by calling for sanctions if the government had not taken significant steps by the end of March to dismantle the system of racial separation. The Anglican bishop said none of the major proposals for reform had been met and told a crowded news conference: "I have no hope of real change from this government unless they are forced." "We face a catastrophe in this land and only the action of the international community by applying pressure can save us," he said.

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Masri receives new ambassadors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri on Wednesday held separate meetings with four newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan and received from them copies of their credentials. The ambassadors were Mr. Hector Cardenas Rodriguez of Mexico, Mr. Abdullah Haj Abdul Rahman Al Sayyad of Somalia, Mr. Karl Fisher of Czechoslovakia and Mr. Mamadou Salious Sylla of Guinea.

Grenade hurled at Gaza police HQ

TEL AVIV (R) — A hand grenade was thrown at Israel's police headquarters in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday but caused no injuries, Israel Radio reported. The grenade exploded on a fence surrounding the central police station. Police were searching for the attackers.

Former Egyptian soldiers fighting beside Iraqis

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview that retired Egyptian soldiers were fighting with Iraq against Iran, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Wednesday. "These men have been in Iraq for a long time. They went there to work. They are not military experts," Mr. Mubarak said in the interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine Al Sayyad. MENA quoted Mr. Mubarak as saying: "Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told me they have asked some of the retired Egyptian military men working in Iraq to serve on the front line."

12 Islamic states to set up parliamentary union

ISTANBUL (R) — Delegates from 12 Muslim nations who met in Istanbul this week have agreed to create an Islamic parliamentary union, the meeting's chairman said on Wednesday. The two-day meeting, attended by 25 parliamentarians, was organized by Turkey prior to a Mexico conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) next week.

Chaban-Delmas elected French speaker

PARIS (R) — Gaullist former Prime Minister Jacques Chaban-Delmas on Wednesday became speaker of the National Assembly for the third time in his long political career, but had to wait for a second ballot to secure victory. Mr. Chaban-Delmas, 71, was three votes short of the required absolute majority on the first ballot when the assembly elected on March 16 held its opening session on Wednesday. But less than two hours later a second ballot gave him a 282 votes, four more than the 278 he needed. Mr. Chaban's failure to win on the first secret ballot, in which several independent right-wingers abstained.

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King reaffirms Jordan's commitment to Palestinians

Combined agency despatches

JAKARTA — His Majesty King Hussein said on Wednesday Jordan was determined to fulfil its duty to the Palestinian people despite the collapse of its joint effort with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Speaking to reporters after a two-hour meeting with President Suharto, the King said Jordan remained committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The King declined to say if Jordan would make any new initiative to help settle the Palestinian problem. "It is too premature to say at this point," he said.

The King announced in February that he was terminating off political coordination with the PLO, saying discussions had reached a dead end. The PLO has said it wants to revive the stalled talks.

"Jordan is facing a challenge," the King said. "Jordan is going to fulfil its duty to the Arab cause and particularly that of the Palestinian people in an effort to ensure their rights."

The King made no reference to a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who said his talks in Washington on Tuesday with the King and President Suharto covered bilateral relations and current world affairs with particular attention to the Gulf war and the Middle East question.

The King arrived here on Tuesday for a six-day visit to Indonesia. He is accompanied by

Indonesian cabinet ministers to discuss ways for bolstering Jordanian-Indonesian trade and economic relations.

Taking part in the talks were Dr. Muasher and Dr. Khatib.

King assails U.S. stand

In an interview published on Tuesday, the King said U.S. reluctance to endorse the sale of advanced weapons to Jordan signalled almost an end of military links between the two nations.

The King told Jane's Defence Weekly that the unwillingness of the U.S. Congress to approve the arms package, which included F-16C and F-20 fighter aircraft and advanced air defence missiles, was:

"As far as we are concerned almost the termination of our relationship with the U.S., a relationship which has seen the United States supply us with military equipment for the last 28 years."

The magazine said the King lamented the "inability of the U.S. president to meet his commitments to us" by failing to secure congressional approval for the deal.

Jordan would seek alternative supply sources such as Britain, France and possibly the Soviet Union, to replenish its armories, the King said.

President Reagan, facing pro-Israeli opposition in Congress of the proposed \$1.9 billion arms deal with Jordan, indefinitely postponed the sale in February.

Congress has tried to link the

sale with Jordanian acceptance of direct peace talks with Israel.

The King was quoted by James as describing the rejection by the U.S. Congress of the deal as a "blatant snub."

The congressional demand for Jordan-Israel peace talks as a precondition for the arms sale was "pointless because Jordan can never be a surrogate or substitute for the Palestinians during (peace) negotiations," the King told James.

In his interview with James, the King also referred to promised Arab aid to Jordan under the 1978 Baghdad summit. Jordan had never received the entire amount in any year since 1978. In 1983, Jordan was given only \$450 million, James said.

"Saudi Arabia has been the only country which has been consistent in its support for Jordan," the King was quoted as saying. "Some states have never honoured any of their commitments to Jordan, such as Libya."

The King said he hoped to "discuss this question with the Saudi leadership and some of the Gulf states in the near future to ascertain what help, if any, we can count upon to make up our military equipment deficiencies."

The King said that Jordan could be willing to send troops to Kuwait if necessary to defend against Iranian attack.

"We are responsible for Kuwait's security and I will not hesitate to deploy Jordanian forces to defend the Gulf state if I am asked to do so," he was quoted as saying.

Regent calls for setting up national union to organise cultural activities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday met with cultural activists and artists in the Kingdom and reviewed with them cultural projects included in the 1986-1990 national five-year development plan.

In the meeting, held at the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), Department of Art and Culture Director Haidar Mahmoud presented an outline of the projects, which include the establishment of a national publishing house and an establishment for publishing children's cultural books and setting up an organisation to develop the theatre, music and fine arts in Jordan.

These projects are expected to cost JD 13 million and will be implemented over the next five years, Planning Minister Abdullah Nsour said.

The Regent commented on various aspects of these projects and noted that there was a lack of coo-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday chairs a meeting of cultural activists and artists in the Kingdom (photo by Youssef Al 'Allam)

rdination among the projects included in the five-year plan. Although each project is important and significant in itself there was a lack of coordination on the national level, he said.

The Crown Prince called for a comprehensive strategy to organise all cultural activities in the Kingdom and said a national union should act as an umbrella organisation for the purpose.

Jordan switches to summer time tonight

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Before going to bed tonight, it would be a wise move to adjust your watches 60 minutes forward so that you will not be caught off guard on Friday as the rest of the country goes on summer time.

The decision to adopt summer time between April 4 and Oct. 3 for the second consecutive year after a seven-year break comes into force midnight tonight.

The move followed a government-led campaign which began in 1984 with the aim of rationalising energy consumption as part of the effort to reduce the Kingdom's energy import bills.

The "save energy" campaign adopted by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources included putting out advertisements in the local media to advise citizens on ways to reduce energy consumption.

By adopting summer time, the ministry hopes to save a one hour worth of energy a day consumed for lights and to make more use of sun light. According to the ministry, the one hour means a saving of 20 per cent of power consumption for lighting in the domestic sector.

According to estimates drawn up by the ministry, most consumers needed five hours of lighting a day, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

As the change to summer time comes into force, people would need to switch on their lights only at 7 p.m., as there would be enough sun light.

The decision to adopt summer time was taken as part of efforts to curb Jordan's rising bills for importing oil to generate power. It is estimated that power consumption per capita in the Kingdom is one of the highest in the developing countries. It is assumed that a 20 per cent saving on power used for lighting in the domestic sector will have the equivalent impact on the country's fuel imports. The industrial sector is not expected to be affected by the change as most factories and plants follow a set number of working hours regardless of the change of time.

Alla, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has rescheduled its flight timings one hour ahead for departures as well as arrivals, thereby maintaining its links with Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

The flight rescheduling, in effect, was aimed at avoiding any disruption in travel schedules and flight connections for passengers flying aboard Alla, or using the Queen Alla International Airport as a transit point.

Radio Jordan and Jordan Television have adjusted their transmission timings to suit the new time and there will be no effective changes in the transmission hours.

Senate refers electoral law to legal committee

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament Wednesday referred the new 1986 electoral law to its legal committee for study and approval.

The new law, which was approved by the Lower House last Thursday, expanded the number of parliamentary seats from 60 to 142 and provided representation for the 11 Palestinian refugee camps in the East Bank of Jordan.

The law has also lowered the voting age to 19 from 20 and reserves seven seats for Christians and three for the Circassian and Shishan communities in the country.

During its session on Thursday, the Upper House referred 27 other laws to the legal and financial committees.

Dr. Khalil El Salem protested against referring the majority of

the draft laws to the legal committee. "By doing so, the other Upper House committees are left without any work to do," he said.

Dr. Salem explained that some laws should be referred to the other committees according to their subjects.

But former Prime Minister Mudar Badran disagreed with Dr. Salem, saying that most of the laws involved purely legal issues regardless of the subjects they deal with.

Dr. Salem, however, stuck to his view and suggested that laws pertaining to the establishment of charitable and welfare associations and social clubs should be handled by the social affairs committee.

Speaker of the Upper House Ahmad Al Lawzi put Dr. Salem's suggestion to the vote and the majority of the members voted against the motion.

Senior Soviet official arrives here today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, is due here Thursday on a two-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the Middle East and on relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Polyakov, who was in Damascus on Wednesday, was received by President Hafez Al Assad, the Syrian News Agency reported.

It said the meeting was attended by Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Felix Fedotov, but gave no other details, AP reported.

Earlier, the Soviet official conferred with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam on developments in the region.

He also met Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, on efforts to re-unify the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Mr. Hawatmeh has remained neutral in the split between supporters and opponents of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Polyakov arrived in Syria on Tuesday and immediately conferred with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a. The Syrian News Agency (SANA) said the talks centred on issues of "mutual interest."

Mr. Polyakov's visit to the region coincides with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' visit to Washington this week.

Israeli officials have been accusing Syria of planning a new war after President Assad called for a strategic balance with Israel in recent statements.

Tensions have recently risen over the Golan Heights, occupied by the Israelis in the 1967 war and annexed in December 1981.

Syrian newspapers and state radio said Israel and the United States feel Syria is an obstacle for their moves in the Middle East and may be plotting "a military blow against Syria."

Peres says doors for peace should remain open

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday the doors for peace should be kept open in the Middle East and that "we have to believe we should and we can go ahead in the direction of peace."

In an interview with the ABC-TV network's "Good Morning America" programme Wednesday morning, Peres said: "What we have to do first of all is keep the doors for peace open, (and we have) to believe that we have to and we should and we can go ahead in the direction of peace."

Asked why he would not try to arrange a meeting with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Peres said, "If (Jordan) couldn't reach an agreement with him, what is the sense for us to try and meet him at all?"

Earlier, Peres said Israel and the United States are exploring new ideas for reviving the Middle East peace process, but he is uncertain whether they will win acceptance in Arab countries.

At a news conference Tuesday after meeting with Vice-President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz, Peres said it was too early to discuss the ideas publicly (See page 2).

3 hurled to death in midair blast on TWA plane; 1 missing, 9 injured

ATHENS (Agencies) — A bomb tore a hole in a Trans World Airlines (TWA) Boeing 727 Wednesday and blasted a man, woman and child to their deaths above southern Greece, government and airport security officials said.

The plane landed safely but police said another child was missing and up to nine people were reported injured. Officials said 114 passengers and seven crew members were aboard Flight 840, which was flying from Rome to Cairo.

The bomb went off at a height of 5,000 metres over the city of Corinth after the U.S. plane had begun its approach to Athens airport, the airline said.

Three bodies were found in fields near the town of Argos, 40 kilometres south of Corinth and police there said they were searching for a fourth body. The blast ripped a hole under the plane towards the middle of the wing and passengers said it seemed the three had been sucked out.

The police said one of the dead had been identified as Alberto Ospina, 39, a U.S. citizen of Colombian background. The nationalities of the other dead, a one-and-a-half year old girl and a woman, were not known but police said one theory was that they were all part of the same family.

A government official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters bomb disposal experts had examined the Boeing 727 and found that an explosive device had been placed in the luggage compartment.

The plane was forced to make an emergency landing at Athens airport.

The government official said the pilot had told police he only realised an explosion had taken place after landing in Athens. He initially thought a window or door had blown open.

Passengers said the explosion appeared to have gone off around a window seat, blowing up the bottom of the seats but leaving the backs undamaged.

Jeannette Staffice, a survivor from Oregon, told reporters she was sitting in a window seat in row eight when she saw a bright light, followed by darkness. "To me it smelt like fireworks."

Passengers grabbed their oxygen masks as the cabin filled with haze.

Airport police in Rome said 101 of the passengers on board the American airline had transferred from another TWA flight which had earlier brought them from New York.

Spain rejects British protest over alleged sea violation

MADRID (R) — Spain on Wednesday dismissed a British protest over the alleged incursion of a Spanish aircraft carrier into Gibraltar's territorial waters, saying the British colony's waters were under its sovereignty.

The British Foreign Office said the Dedalo entered the demarcation zone between Spain and Gibraltar on the night of March 20 and launched two helicopters dangerously close to the colony's airport.

Gibraltar Radio said the 16,416-tonne flagship sailed up to 2.5 kilometres off the strategic rock guarding the western entrance to the Mediterranean.

The Spanish Defence Ministry said it was not aware of the incident which happened little more than a month before a state visit to Britain by King Juan Carlos, due to start on April 22.

Beirut camp battles renewed after truce

BEIRUT (AP) — Palestinian fighters launched grenade and machine gun attacks against besieging Lebanese militiamen on three fronts in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps on Wednesday, as the five-day-old battle appeared to be heading for a showdown.

Palestinian sources reached by telephone in Shatila said the camp's defenders had "regained three key posts" following mortar and machine gun battles in the shantytowns in south Beirut.

A communique issued by the Shiite Amal militia claimed three Palestinian attacks were repulsed.

Police reports said one man was killed and seven others wounded in the day-long battles. That raised the casualty toll to 26 dead and nearly 60 wounded since fighting erupted on Friday.

Two of the wounded Wednesday were Amal fighters, Beirut radios said.

The Amal offensive is the Syrian-backed militia's third major effort to eliminate power in

Beirut.

Snipers duelled in the narrow, muddy alleyways of the devastated camps as frightened families scurried to safety outside the shantytowns during lulls in the gunfire.

The clashes escalated in mid-afternoon with 81-mm and 102-mm mortar and grenade battles. That prompted Amal and the Sixth Brigade of the Lebanese army to deploy two tanks and two armoured personnel carriers with heavy machine guns on the western fringes of the camps.

Amal also moved in two trucks mounted with a 106-mm recoilless gun and an anti-aircraft battery to stop the Palestinian attacks.

Both sides ignored a series of ceasefires arranged by their leaders. That heightened fears of a major confrontation in the shantytowns.

"The Palestinians are trying to break out through our lines, infiltrating through backyards," said one Amal fighter.

French to abandon historic villa on Beirut's 'green line'

BEIRUT (Agencies) — France is to abandon the historic, battle-scarred residence of its ambassadors on Beirut's 'green line,' government sources said Wednesday, fuelling fears a major clash between militias is looming.

The pull-out raised concern that the rival militias will try to take over the walled compound that is strategically located on the five-kilometre long demarcation line that slices Beirut into Christian and Muslim sectors.

Spokesmen for the main militias warned of a "security vacuum" in the sensitive mid-city area around the villa, known as the Palais Des Pins, when French troops observers move out in the next few days.

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's newly elected government Tuesday ordered the 45-man troop observer unit out of Beirut.

It has monitored the thousands of cease-fires in Lebanon's civil war. Nine of its men have been killed.

The Foreign Ministry in Paris said the observers were being withdrawn because they can no longer carry out their mission in militia-plagued Beirut.

The observers withdrew from all five of their positions in and around the capital Tuesday. They have been assembled at the Palais Des Pins, their headquarters, to await a French Navy transport to evacuate them.

The French burned documents at the Palais Des Pins Wednesday. Their officers held talks with Lebanese army commanders to work out how to avert a showdown over the strategic building between Falangists and opposition forces.

The villa and its compound has been frequently shelled in Lebanon's 11-year-old civil war. It stands in no-man's-land on the dividing 'green line' next to the deserted mid-city racetrack and facing the parliament buildings.

"The area is so sensitively located that various militias would surely try to take it if no amicable settlement can be reached to neutralise it before the French departure," said a government spokesman who declined to be named.

"Any side who controls it will have a tremendous military advantage against the other, because it is the most vital part of the 'green line'," he said.

The complex was the formal residence of French commissioners-general when Lebanon was a French colony after World War I. It got its name from the pine woods that once surrounded it.

When Lebanon gained independence in 1943, the walled compound became the official residence of French ambassadors until Israel's 1982 invasion.

The Israelis shelled the woods, setting them on fire, to prevent Mr. Yasser Arafat's Palestinian commandos from using them as

hideouts. The residence then became the headquarters of the French contingent that served with U.S. Marines and troops from Italy and Britain in a Multi-National Force in Beirut.

The force evacuated Lebanon early in 1984 when its 17-month initiative collapsed.

The French Observer Force then deployed in Beirut in March, 1984, and took up headquarters at the Palais Des Pins.

Beirut newspapers and radio stations said the most likely solution to avert a battle for the residence is to formally proclaim it a parliamentary annex.

That would put a handpicked multi-factional police force that guards parliament in charge of the Palais Des Pins.

Newspapers said Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein has discussed the idea with French Ambassador Christian Graeff and militia leaders. But no final agreement has yet been reached.

France has ruled out any connection between the planned withdrawal and protracted negotiations for the release of eight Frenchmen held hostage in Lebanon.

French officials strongly denied any link between the abductions and the pullout, announced Tuesday by the French Foreign Affairs Ministry.

"The (pullout) decision has its own logic," a ministry spokesman told Reuters, adding a possible withdrawal of the force, which arrived in Lebanon two years ago,

had been envisaged for several weeks.

Political sources said the decision was taken by Mr. Chirac following a meeting with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand on Saturday.

The statement said the decision to withdraw had the agreement of Lebanese authorities.

Diplomatic sources however said the military situation in embattled Beirut might not have been the only reason for the move.

The sources pointed at constant criticism by Syria and the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad (holy war) group over the Western military presence in Lebanon and said the withdrawal could help resume hitherto deadlocked negotiations for the release of the eight.

"This decision is unlikely to upset Damascus, which has always looked unfavourably at France's presence in a region seen by Syria as part of its sole competence," the influential daily Le Monde wrote.

Radical Muslim elements in Lebanon have held four Frenchmen for about a year, and the Islamic Jihad has claimed to have killed one of them, researcher Michel Seurat.

And a four-man television crew working for the Antenne-2 network was abducted on March 8. Antenne-2 shows photographs of the eight every night at the opening of its prime-time evening news programme, highlighting French concern over their fate.

Qadhafi 'is lonely' magazine reports

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Col. Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan leader, describes himself as a lonely test-dweller who writes poetry, listens to classical music and sometimes cries, the West German magazine Bunte said Wednesday.

In an interview with the mass-circulation weekly, Col. Qadhafi was quoted as saying his great passions are riding and hunting and that he has never abandoned the nomadic life of his ancestors.

"Wherever he lives in his empire, he lives in tents," Bunte said. "There is one next to the seat of government in the capital, Tripoli, one next to the barracks of his bodyguard, one next to his command bunker in the desert."

Bunte, a weekly news and entertainment magazine, appears at newsstands in West Germany on Thursday. The magazine telexed copies of its article about Col. Qadhafi to news organisations on Wednesday.

A Bunte spokesman said the interview took place in March, before the U.S.-Libyan military clash in the Gulf of Sirte. Bunte said its reporter met Col. Qadhafi in a tent next to a barracks about 10 kilometres outside the city of Benghazi.

Bunte, published in Munich, said most of the questions posed to Col. Qadhafi were about his personal life.

Col. Qadhafi "blushed like a schoolboy" at some of the questions, Bunte said.

"It is difficult for me to talk about my feelings before strangers. I lead an unusual life. I am indeed a lonely person," Col. Qadhafi said, according to Bunte.

The Libyan leader, accused by U.S. officials of involvement in "international terrorism," said he reads a lot and writes poetry and short stories. His favourite book is "Uncle Tom's Cabin," according to Bunte.

"It happens from time to time that I cry. But only when I am alone," Bunte quoted him as saying.

Col. Qadhafi's wife and seven children live in a "normal" house in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, with air conditioning, television and modern toys for the children, Bunte said. It is Col. Qadhafi's second marriage, it added.

Col. Qadhafi had made it legally more difficult for men to take the four wives allowed by the Muslim faith, Bunte said.

Iran uses oil platform for ship attacks

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran is using an oil platform in the middle of the Gulf as a base from which helicopters attack tankers, oil and shipping industry sources said Wednesday.

They said helicopters have attacked at least 14 ships this year from the platform, known as Rostam Island, in the centre of an oil-field about 65 miles from the Iranian mainland and close to shipping lanes for Arab Gulf ports.

Since it started using Rostam late last year, the focus of Iran's attacks has moved eastwards in the Gulf.

Previous strikes centred on an area of shallows known as the Shah Allum Shoal, closer to Qatar's northern tip, built by U.S.-built F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers based on Lavan Island, just off the Iranian mainland.

The sources said the captain of the 103,178-ton Panamanian tanker Stelios reported that a helicopter which fired a rocket at his ship last Sunday took off from the Rostam helipad.

They said Iran was short of jets in its 5½-year-old war with Iraq

and use of helicopters in these attacks freed fixed-wing aircraft to support its ground offensives farther north.

Since Iraq started hitting tankers using Iranian ports just over two years ago, and Iran responded by hitting ships bound for the ports of Gulf Arab states supporting Iraq, at least 120 ships, most of them tankers, have been hit by missiles or rockets.

Rostam is about 75 miles east of Qatar and only 30 miles north east of Halal Island, where Qatar has an offshore processing plant for crude oil. It is 50 miles north of Das Island, where the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has major oil and gas installations.

The sources said Iran's use of the platform would raise apprehension in Gulf shipping and oil circles, alleviated only by Iran's apparent unwillingness to attack at night.

This has allowed tankers to steal through the danger zone in the Gulf under cover of darkness.

Iran still tried to identify its targets before attacking them, the U.S. said, to avoid confrontation with the U.S., British and French navies, which

all have a regular presence in the waterway, the sources said.

"If they start attacking at night, you might as well draw a chain across the mouth of the Gulf," one source said.

The sources could not identify the type of helicopters, at least two of which are based at Rostam at any one time, or the missiles they are using.

Military sources have previously reported use by Iran of U.S.-made Maverick missiles on ships in the Gulf, and military experts removed an unexploded 50-centimetre rocket from the Norwegian tanker Berge King last weekend after it had come under attack from two helicopters.

It was not clear if the Rostam field was still producing oil to be pumped to Lavan. The sources said the rig would be fairly sophisticated, with living quarters which could be easily supplied from Lavan.

A terminal at Lavan itself provides some 100,000 barrels per day of Iranian oil exports, which in early March were running at some 1.25 million barrels daily.

Poll shows Israeli Labour with slim majority

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Peres' Labour Party and its parliamentary allies would have a slim majority if elections were held now, according to a public opinion poll published Wednesday.

Labour and the allied Yahad (together) Party of Ezer Weizman were favoured by 42 per cent of those surveyed, according to the poll carried out by the Hamelech Smith Organisation.

Other likely allies for Mr. Peres garnered 9 per cent, giving Labour the minimum 51 per cent that it would need to form a government.

Likud, which is currently sharing power with Labour in a coalition government despite an historic rivalry, was favoured by 23 per cent of the respondents. The block won 36 per cent of the vote at the last election. Likud and its allies garnered 43 per cent.

Two per cent favoured non-aligned parties and a 4 per cent were undecided.

The poll, published in the Labour-aligned Davar Daily, was carried out during March among 1,245 Israeli Jews between March 10 and 20. The margin of error was about 2 per cent.

A similar poll in August showed Labour favoured 39 to 22 per cent

over Likud.

The Labour alliance won 39 per cent of the vote in the July 1984 general election which ended in a virtual deadlock with the right-wing Likud Bloc headed by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Some defecting Likud supporters shifted to the more right-wing Tehiya Party, which was supported by 8 per cent of those surveyed, said deputy poll director Rami Smith. The anti-Arab Kahane Party of Rabbi Meir Kahane, which got 9 per cent support last August, was favoured by 3 per cent.

Peres said the poll was encouraging.

But officials in Cairo said negotiations from the two countries had failed to settle their dispute over Tabu, an enclave in Sinai occupied by Israel but claimed by Egypt.

Peres said lawyers were seeking to resolve one or two issues on Tabu. If they failed, "the politicians will have to come in."

The two countries have for months tried to settle the dispute over Tabu, which Israel kept when it returned the rest of Sinai to Egypt in 1982 under their 1979 peace accord.

Mr. Shultz said at the luncheon that political stability and economic progress were related com-

ponents of a lasting Middle East peace.

He praised Israel's economic reforms but also said the economic recovery that cut spiralling inflation had not been completed and new sacrifices would have to be made.

"The generation of resources which can give material well-being to lives long impoverished by the region's conflict is no less important than peace to the future of your region," Mr. Shultz said.

At the luncheon Peres praised U.S. naval exercises in the Gulf of Sirte claimed by Libya as "a great move" and said Libya and its leader Muammar Qadhafi had become "a danger to peace."

U.S. declines comment on Israel-Iran missile deal

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokesmen had no specific comment on a report published April 1 in the New York Times alleging that before the fall of the Shah of Iran in 1979, Israel was involved in a secret project to modify advanced surface-to-surface missiles for sale to Iran.

The Times said the project was outlined in recently published secret documents which had been left in Tehran by Israeli diplomats. According to the report, the two sides agreed to keep the project secret from the United States.

U.S. confirms Egypt refused to attack Libya

By Roger Fontaine

WASHINGTON — Administration sources have confirmed that Egypt has refused three offers from the United States in the last eight months to launch a joint military operation against Libya.

These attempts were first reported Sunday by Ibrahim Nafeh, editor of the influential Al-Ahram newspaper in Cairo.

The American offer and the Egyptian refusal were confirmed separately by the Washington Times from knowledgeable, administration sources. "This is my

understanding of what happened," said one official.

But State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb would only say, "The United States and Egypt share a common perception of regional security issues" and that "our relations in this area have been close and mutually profitable."

Mr. Nafeh said the first U.S. proposal came in mid-July after Reagan administration officials concluded that further diplomatic efforts with the Libyan leader would be useless, and that stronger action needed to be taken.

Washington at the time offered to provide Cairo with military aid for an attack on Libya, but the plan was rejected, Mr. Nafeh said.

The second time, he claimed, was in late December after Libya had installed SAM-5 missiles. A U.S. envoy arrived in Cairo to discuss a joint military venture against Libya, Mr. Nafeh said, but again the offer was turned down.

The third offer came in January after the attacks by Palestinian terrorists on the Rome and Vienna airports — Washington Times.

remained well below her requirements," he told a meeting organised by a private research foundation and attended by six members of the U.S. Congress.

Turkey says Greece hindering ties with U.S.

ISTANBUL (R) — Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu said U.S. aid to Turkey was below requirements and charged Greece

with hindering Turkish-American relations.

"I have to say that the level of (U.S.) assistance to Turkey has

remained well below her requirements," he told a meeting organised by a private research foundation and attended by six members of the U.S. Congress.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
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20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show Cont.
22:00 News Summary
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23:00 News Summary
23:30 Evening Show Cont.
24:00 News Headlines
24:30 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
06:00 Newsweek 06:30 International
06:45 Newsweek 07:00 World News
07:30 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30
07:45 24 Hours: News Summary 07:45
08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Nature
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
"An exhibition with originals about the work of the German Artist Christian Schud at the Goethe Institute (until April 3)."

"An art exhibition by Mohamed Abu Zuhair at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery."

"A book exhibition at Mr. T. University in Karak (until April 3)."

"An exhibition by Ghada Dababneh at Petra Bank Gallery (until April 9)."

"Sculptures exhibition at the French Cultural Centre starting Friday (until April 11)."

"Exhibition of bronze statues by Layla Hadad at her open studio in Al-Rababeh, near Al-Rababeh station (until April 11)."

PLAY
"An Arabic play for children by the Fawwaz Theatre Group at 5:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre."

FEATURE FILM
"All That Jazz" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

VIDEO
"Philosophie" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 644371
British Council Tel. 641520
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009
Goethe Institute Tel. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644203

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet allocates funds for sports clubs

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to allocate JD 621,000 for the establishment of sports societies in a number of cities in Jordan. A statement issued by the Prime Ministry on Wednesday said that the sum will be distributed to cities which have already taken steps to set up such societies.

Chief of staff inspects People's Army HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh Wednesday paid an inspection visit to the People's Army headquarters. He was briefed by senior officers on plans for the recruitment and training of People's Army recruits. He also inspected administrative work at the department.

Jordan stages display at tourism show

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Royal Jordanian Airline, have taken part in a world tourist exhibition held recently in Göteborg in Sweden. The exhibition included a Jordanian pavilion for oriental souvenirs and folklore costumes and this pavilion was visited by a large number of visitors, including Swedish Princess Liljana. The Antiquities Department also presented performances of traditional dances. On the sidelines of the exhibition, Tourism Authority Director General Nasri Attallah held a series of meetings with travel agents in Sweden and extended invitations to representatives of leading tourist companies working in Sweden and Scandinavian countries to see Jordan's ruins and the facilities offered to tourists.

Hot air balloons over Amman Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The West German national airline, Lufthansa, plans to launch a manned hot-air balloon over Amman on Friday April 4 to celebrate the inauguration of the airline's twice weekly non-stop flights from Amman to Frankfurt. A spokesman for the airline's office in Amman said that the launching of the first balloon will be at 9:30 a.m. and the second at around 6:00 p.m. The spokesman invited members of the public to look out for the large balloons which will soar over in the skies of Amman on Friday.

IBS to hold student camp

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman International Baccalaureate School (IBS) will Saturday hold a student training camp at Aalouk area in the Zarqa region. The camp, which will run until Thursday, offers the 42 participants the chance to take part in a programme of physical recreation, to participate in a community service project and to carry out an expedition involving one or more night camping. The camp is part of the school's annual activities and three trainers and supervisors from the school will be present at the camp.

The Crown Prince Hassan Award Scheme, which was introduced for the first time in 1984 as a pilot project, is a programme of activities comprising bronze level, a silver and a gold level with set programmes for each. The Crown Prince's award is one of a number of similar programmes operating in some 40 countries throughout the world and which has its international headquarters in London.



The Storm — mixed media drawing by Ghada Dahdaleh

Young artist shows potential in her first solo exhibition

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the Petra Bank Art Gallery this week is an exhibition by the young Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh. A recent graduate of the Central Technical College of Art in Toronto, Canada, Dahdaleh's first solo exhibition here in Amman comprises around 40 paintings executed in a variety of media which range from silk paintings, collages, sculptures and etchings to the more traditional oil on canvas and watercolour on paper. Slightly less diverse is Dahdaleh's style which, although mainly abstract, still shows uncertainty in direction common to many young and inexperienced artists setting out on the long road to being a painter.

Certainly the best paintings in the collection are several large abstract watercolours whose theme is the earth. Entitled "Erosion," "The Crack," and "Tilted," these paintings catch in blocky shapes the colours of the ground beneath our feet, the ochres, the siennas, the greys and the browns. Short, vital, black lines, hurriedly and spontaneously applied and grainy spots of orange, pink and grey lend a sense of movement and texture to these well-balanced compositions.

The same black lines appear again and again in Dahdaleh's work and it is in these that lie her strength. In a small watercolour entitled "The Storm" a heavy black line swirls interestingly around the paper. In the spaces and shapes this line creates, Dahdaleh has added touches of pastel colours which are further softened, as are the lines themselves, by short feathery strokes of white.

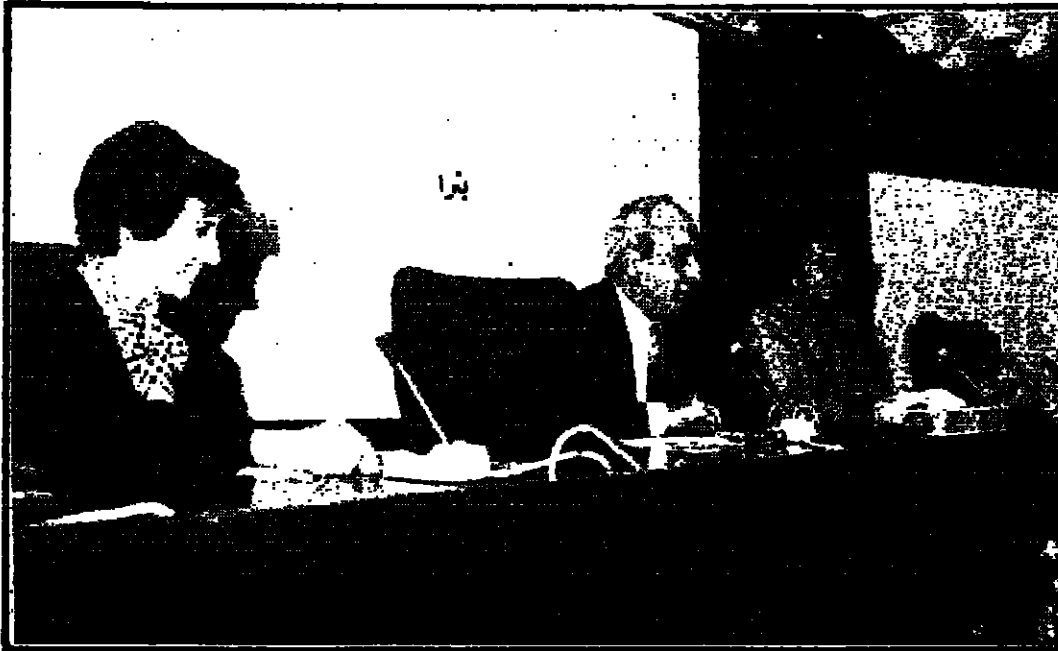
Spidery, black and yellow lines

Spidery lines, but black again,

If, however, Dahdaleh really felt that she needed to show her work now in order to see for herself where she is going, then it would have been better if she had been more selective. By cutting out the still life, the paintings on silk and some of the very hurried abstract watercolours, this first show would have been more coherent. But with the potential that this first exhibition shows, Dahdaleh's second exhibit will be something to look forward to.

ART REVIEW

make up the absorbing composition in Dahdaleh's etching entitled "Two Rectangles" while the heavy black grid in the artist's oil "Selection" dominates the paintings around it. Each square of the grid is filled with mixtures of swirling blue and grey touched with orange and magenta. This painting, and another called "Yellow Line" where Dahdaleh has carefully balanced the yellow line of the title, running vertically down the canvas, over contrasting areas of dark deep blues, bright red and brilliant white, with another smaller yellow line — both show that Dahdaleh has an ability and a talent that should be pursued.



Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Wednesday opens a symposium on maternity leave for working mothers. (Petra photo)

Symposium suggests more legal provisions for working mothers

By Sama Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A symposium on maternity leave has stressed the need for improving the present status of working mothers and it also discussed the negative impact of inadequate work conditions on these mothers and their children.

Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh opened the meeting on Wednesday and spoke about the importance of women in society. He said: "A woman plays a very important role in life, but unfortunately, most men do not look at her as a mother, daughter, sister, or wife, but as a sex object."

At the symposium entitled "Maternity Leave: A New Look," the minister said that for thousands of years women have been discriminated against in every society. He said: "Even in highly developed countries like the United States, there is a lot of discrimination and assaults of the worst kind against women. What women should ask for is not to be equal to men, but for justice." Dr. Hamzeh added that he will seriously consider any proposals for mothers' rights. He said: "The important thing is not the laws passed for working mothers, but practising the laws." He ended his speech by saying that people must not be fanatical but open minded in order to achieve their goals.

Dr. Kamel Al Sa'ad, a lawyer, then spoke about the present legal rights of working mothers. The current Labour Law, entitled "pregnant woman" to take three weeks leave at half pay after the birth of her child and three weeks unpaid leave prior to the birth but she must have worked at least 180 days prior to the birth. The new draft Labour Law, Article 131, recommends that a woman should have an average of ten weeks leave before and after her delivery. Dr. Al Sa'ad concluded his speech by saying "According to the law, equality is secured for both sexes, but the problem is that

these laws are not practically implemented in institutions and companies."

Recovery period after delivery

Dr. Anwar Harb, a gynaecologist, explained the physical state of women after delivery and said that new mothers need at least six weeks leave from work to physically recover and return to the state she was in before pregnancy. He said: "A child is completely dependent on his mother especially for breast feeding because it is very important for both the mother's and infant's physical and emotional well-being." Dr. Harb also added that there is a need for more day care centres for babies around Jordan.

The last speaker was Dr. Izzat Jaradat, director of education at the Ministry of Education. He said that a mother should receive a long and sufficient paid leave after delivery as this is in the interests of not only the woman, but of her whole family. Dr. Jaradat went on to say that the proper rights given to the working mother will give her time to fulfill her role as a mother and at the same time she would be more productive in her work. This, he said, would have a positive effect on society as a whole.

The symposium took place at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office in Amman and was organised by the Housewives Society, which is affiliated to the General Federation of Jordanian Women. Mrs. Hiyam Abu Ghazaleh, secretary of the Housewives Society, told the Jordan Times that the aim of this meeting was to discuss the working rights of mothers and what could be done to improve the situation. "In general, the society helps housewives by educating them on nutrition, cleanliness, making their homes safe for children, maintaining household electrical equipment, and so on," Mrs. Abu Ghazaleh said.

SCF encourages traditional craft to provide income for bedouin women, their families

By Virginia Buchanan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It was an eye-catching scene that morning on the flat rocky top of Bani Hamida mountain, 35 kilometres south of Madaba. Save the Children Fund (SCF) staff members, rug buffs and the prospective rug owners were standing or sitting around huge piles of rainbow-dyed wool yarn intently watching four black-garbed bedouin women deftly set up a rug loom on the ground.

A young bedouin girl stepped up to the loom. "I want to learn how to do this," she said as she sat down on the mat beside her mother who was pounding an iron stake into the ground with a heavy rock.

Maybe no one else realised the importance of her words, but to the SCF staff those words out of the blue were a thrilling culmination of six months of uphill work. Until then, none of the young school-aged girls had been interested in learning anything about the traditional craft of their people.

For the 375 bedouin families on Bani Hamida mountain, giving up the nomadic life over the past 10 years has had some advantages, such as school for their children and better health care. However, there are few jobs on the mountain and most of the unskilled men-folk work in other parts of Jordan, too far away to be able to return home more than 2 or 3 times a month. Others are farmers, or unemployed. Cash is often scarce.

Last summer, Save the Children conducted a house-to-house survey of 11 villages to see if the women of Bani Hamida were interested in weaving in their spare time to increase their incomes, since wool from their flocks was at

hand and many of the women knew how to spin or weave. In September, the SCF began setting up a cottage industry weaving project in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and a craft marketing project in cooperation with the Queen Noor Al-Husseini Foundation. Twelve women came to the first meeting in the village of Makawir. A veteran weaver, Imm Khalaf, wove the first rug with her own wool.

By the time the project reached the fifth village of Greiyat, almost every woman participated. Seven months later, one hundred women were involved — not all weaving, but doing some part of the eight steps necessary to complete a rug. Some women are proficient in loomsetting and young women with babies prefer to do the spinning, skeining and double plying, which can be done between chores.

Subhiya, a young dyer, was discovered in one of the villages by luck. She immediately began experimenting with new colours and is already a backbone of the project. The women have suddenly realised that here is a way to earn additional cash — to pay for their children's school supplies and their own medical treatment — without having to ever leave their homes. Wool is delivered to the doorstep of any woman wishing to participate, picked up to be dyed, and then dropped off at the house of the next woman to weave.

A collection of the women's rugs will be on display in Amman on April 4 and 5 at the Bisharat Farm at Um Al Kandam. They are part of a Jordanian craft exhibition which will be opened under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor in Washington D.C. in late spring at the Save the Children Fund craft shop.

Authorities discussing plan to change academic status of Mu'ta, Assad says

Minister outlines proposal to separate university's campus into military, academic faculties

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Intense behind-the-scenes discussions are continuing between various concerned ministries, departments and officials regarding a proposal to transform Mu'ta University into a fully-fledged military university and to shift the institution's non-military faculties to a new campus under the same name.

Jordan to mark social welfare day

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will observe the National Day for Social Welfare on Saturday with the main ceremony to be held under Royal patronage to mark the occasion. Dr. Fakhri Al Bilbeisi, member of a national committee raising funds for the cancer treatment centre, said Wednesday.

Dr. Bilbeisi said that a number of pioneering individuals and private institutions who have contributed to social and voluntary activities will be honoured during the ceremony which is to be held at the Palace of Culture. He added that Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan and president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib are expected to deliver keynote addresses at the ceremony.

Other activities to be undertaken during the event include the inauguration of several social projects and centres, sports activities for handicapped and organising seminars and dialogues on social activities in the Kingdom. Dr. Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times.

He added that GUVS officials and interested individuals will make visits to hospitals and other institutions to distribute gifts to needy people.

"Studies are underway to make the permanent site of Mu'ta University a campus for military sciences and to set up another campus(es) to teach the other different non-military specialisations which the university offers," Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad, told the Jordan Times in an interview on Wednesday. Mu'ta University, which has an estimated 800 students enrolled for the 1985/1986 academic year, moved to its permanent premises, 10 kilometres south of Karak in October 1984.

Mu'ta is a civil-military university and students can either join a four-year military science specialisation or study engineering, natural sciences, law, management or human sciences. Students who receive military training and study military science are eligible to qualify as second lieutenants in the army or public security forces.

A Royal Committee chaired by Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior educationalists and government officials is entrusted with formulating the university's educational policies and plans.

However, there are two controversial opinions regarding the proposal of dividing the university's civil and military faculties into two separate campuses under the name of Mu'ta University. The Ministry of Higher Education's stand on this issue is that the present site of Mu'ta will only teach military sciences and that the other civil specialisations should

be taught in other faculties to be established in various areas of the Kingdom's southern regions. The university's officials contend that the present permanent site should host the university's military specialisations while new premises should be built adjacent to Mu'ta University's premises to teach the other non-military specialisations. The final proposal has to be accepted by the Royal Committee, approved by the Ministry of Higher Education and the cabinet before a Royal Decree can be issued endorsing the proposal.

Presently, there are an estimated 26,000 students registered at Jordan's three state-owned universities for the academic year 1985/1986. The university of Jordan was established in 1962. Yarmouk University in 1972 and Mu'ta University was established in 1981.

Dr. Assad's statement to the Jordan Times was in response to rumours circulating inside various ministries and departments associated with education that the cabinet intends to transform Mu'ta University into a "four-year military and police academy" in order to pave the way for the inception of a fourth, but privately-owned, university. According to well-informed sources at the Ministry of Higher Education, there are almost 25 Jordanians who have filed applications to obtain licences for establishing private universities in the Kingdom.

The idea to establish private-owned universities in the Kingdom first surfaced in the late

1970's and has ever since been a controversial issue drawing mixed reactions from concerned educationalists.

Opponents of the idea claim that any expansion in the number of higher education seats through the establishment of a fourth private-owned university will cause a drop in the standard of university education in Jordan. They charge that such expansion will be at the expense of quality and contend that private university owners will be money-oriented and not education-oriented. Supporters of the idea say that Jordan needs more universities to accommodate a large number of students who leave Jordan to study abroad due to the heavy competition to obtain seats at Jordanian universities. They further add that the establishment of a private-owned university will help the country's economy since the amount of money spent on students abroad is estimated at JD 75 million, apart from the political, social, intellectual and psychological problems which affect Jordanian students who study abroad.

Dr. Assad had earlier stated that Jordan has no defined higher education policy or plan and he made this comment during a seminar held in Amman last October to discuss Jordan's education in the past, present and future.

But chances remain high for setting up a fourth university. Dr. Assad gave a press conference in March this year and revealed that his ministry has approved "in principle" new plans to expand higher education opportunities in Jordan.

Details on how, where and when an increase in the number of higher education seats will be achieved were not disclosed by Dr. Assad but he promised that he will announce the form of higher education expansion in late April or early May "after all the proposals have been thoroughly studied".

Lufthansa



German Airlines

— Has the pleasure to invite the general public to observe our manned balloon flying over the city of Amman,

which will take place on Friday 4th April at 8:30 in the morning and 5 O'clock in the afternoon, of course, depending on the weather conditions,

to celebrate the inauguration of Lufthansa's twice-weekly non-stop flight from Amman to Frankfurt.

All Are Welcome

Jordan Times

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U.S. loses in propaganda war

THE late U.S. President John F. Kennedy once said that in a nuclear war the fruits of victory would taste like ashes in the mouth. He lived to experience almost a foretaste of it during the Cuban missile crisis of 1961. But not many were prepared to accept then or even now are ready to acknowledge the fact and flexibility the late Nikita Khrushchev, the Kremlin leader then, displayed in diffusing the crisis which actually pulled the world away from the brink of a nuclear holocaust. The "hot line" agreement between Washington and Moscow followed later in 1963.

Mr. Reagan has no major bone of contention so far with the Soviets to try his nuclear muscle, but he is certainly at pains to try the Soviet metal for himself. In any case, he appears to be fighting a losing battle already at the propaganda front, with Mr. Gorbachev apparently having a lead of several points over him.

The crucial issues on which the two are judged are related to their respective stance regarding world peace and security in the grim context of the overkill capacity of the nuclear arsenals at each one's disposal. Mr. Reagan's advocacy of world peace and security based on the concept of the nuclear defence shield in space, or "Star Wars," does not seem to be carrying much weight or conviction even with some of his own NATO allies, much less elsewhere in the world. His inflexible determination to carry through his programme, come what may, has characterised him as a leader not very keen to do much for peace in his time.

Whereas Mr. Gorbachev's initiatives, such as his proposals of a 50 per cent cut in nuclear weapons on either side, his star-peace programme in contradistinction to the "Star Wars," the unilateral declaration of six months moratorium on all nuclear tests are all seen as constructive steps in the direction of ending conflicts and gradually denuclearising the world and creating a congenial atmosphere for all to live in peace, free from the scourge of nuclear threat.

However the U.S. may try to dismiss the Gorbachev initiatives as mere propaganda gimmicks, the world at large seems to accept them as worthy of practical consideration. The Soviet credibility received another great fillip recently with the way Mr. Gorbachev condemned the aggressive behaviour of the United States in the Gulf of Sirte. The Soviet leader also proposed to withdraw all Soviet naval forces from the Mediterranean on condition that the U.S. also did the same. Obviously when the U.S. rejected the proposal out of hand, the Soviets scored a signal point.

Mr. Gorbachev is seen more and more as an advocate of peace, prepared to take the olive branch to the starry firmament where Mr. Reagan is seriously preparing to implant his esoteric nuclear devices targeted on the earth. The hawk may protest about his good intentions but who would believe them to be true?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Realities belie announcements

ISRAELI Prime Minister Shimon Peres announced shortly before departing for the United States that his visit was for talks with American officials on the Middle East. He said that the talks will focus on ways for improving the quality of life of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule to enable them to live a decent and free life. Such statements obviously are meaningless and cannot deceive anyone. If anything, these statements are intended to mislead world public opinion. Those in Israel who brag about the need for a Middle East settlement should first respect United Nations resolutions that lay the groundwork for peace and a settlement. Peres can start a settlement by first withdrawing Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab land because peace cannot be based on aggression and occupation of other people's land by force. Peres obviously cannot do that, nor can he offer to withdraw the Israeli forces from Arab land because he will be contradicting the principles of the Zionist movement. Peres' visit to the United States is primarily to secure more aid to the Jewish state and with this aid Israel will be able to perpetuate its occupation of Arab land, making a mockery of all peace initiatives.

Al Dustour: All exercises are for money

IT is clear that Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' visit to the United States is intended to give impetus to the Zionist lobby and give momentum to the current campaigns for raising money for the Jewish state. In addition, Peres hopes to persuade the United States to carry out what he calls a "marshal" project for the Middle East along the lines of the Marshall plan implemented in Europe at the end of World War II. With his new proposal Peres is said to be hoping to revive U.S.-Israeli version of a Middle East peace process. All these initiatives and all these efforts are clearly intended to serve the Zionist movement and achieve Israel's goals. If Peres is successful in his bid to convince the Americans of his proposals, then he will surely obtain further economic and military aid for the Jewish state, despite statements in Washington that the United States intends to reduce its aid to foreign countries in the coming year. Peres wants to persuade Washington that his country has become part of the Middle East and that Washington has to accept his ideas as being good proposals for reviving the whole area's economy.

Sawt Al Shaab: Priority should go to the poor

IN a speech to a meeting held at Mafrq to discuss the governorate's five year plan, Prince Hassan said he was pained to see poor people awaiting state aid or charitable societies' assistance. He said however ambitious Jordan's development plans are and whatever the progress the Kingdom might achieve there can be no real development unless pockets of poverty have been removed. The needy people of this country require better attention on the public and official levels. All the high-rise buildings that we set up and the bridges or interchanges that we construct remain meaningless if we failed in our duty to alleviate the poverty of the needy people. The development projects included in the five-year plan should benefit the needy and poor people first. The five year plan which have been implemented over the years are clearly designed to raise the people's standard of living and enable them to earn a decent living.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Reemergence of Islam is evident in Turkey too

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — The other day in looking through the American edition of the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat, I noticed a small news item that the president of Turkey had just opened a conference on agriculture and nutrition in Istanbul. What struck me was that the sponsoring group was the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), and that the president of Turkey was thereby openly indicating that Turkey was again to be considered an Islamic nation.

In my younger days as a student, I spent some nine months in Turkey as a student. I had the fortune to study with one of the greatest of Turkish scholars, Ahmad Zeki Walidi Toghani. He seemed to have liked me and we travelled together, the younger and the older man, through a lot of the

country looking at historical sites which were all Muslim and Turkish. He was my first teacher as to the Muslim World.

At the time, Turkey was officially secular. Arabic writing was nowhere to be seen. There were no muezzins who called to prayer. Mosques were mostly empty. Many of the greatest in Istanbul had been turned into museums.

I was at the time a young rebel and little interested in religion. I admired the fact that Zeki Walidi in his youth had been a fiery rebel. He knew Lenin, though he quickly broke with him and had to flee for his life by crossing into Afghanistan, going to India, and then to Egypt. As a Turk (from the land of Bashkiri which the Soviets have now Russianised), he was automatically granted asylum in Turkey and given a good position in the university.

I asked him about Islam in Turkey and he said that the roots were so deep that the tree of Islam would one day again sprout out of the ground. In his later years, he himself once again became a devout Muslim and the founder and editor of a major journal called "Muslim Studies."

I have not been in Turkey for 30 years, yet I have Turkish friends who tell me of the problems of the country. All report on the extraordinary resurgence of Islam. The government is not entirely happy about that because of fundamentalist and sectarian tendencies. But it can no longer pretend that Islam is vanishing as Western values become widespread.

Actually my earliest acquaintance with Turkey came as a boy of 10, as a collector of

stamps. I remember seeing one of a tall man in an elegant tuxedo (or smoking as they say in England) holding a cocktail drink in his hand. That was the "Father of Turkey," Kemal Ataturk. Only later did I realise that the stamp symbolised his drive to make Turks into a Western people, and one way was to popularise alcoholic drinks in defiance of Koranic prohibitions.

But the mosques are full again, religious medresas are operating, and Islam has become a powerful force. I was struck on seeing a picture of some ordinary Turks who operated a restaurant that the blackboard behind them was covered with Arabic script. Even though the Turkish language is written in Roman script and these men were clearly born long after the revolution, some-

how the Arabic script had survived and must have seemed more natural for them to write.

I have fond memories of Turkey, but Turkey is another Middle Eastern country which is definitely unpopular in America, even though it is one of the U.S.'s most important NATO allies. The Armenians remember how many thousands of Armenians were killed some 70 years ago by Turks. The Greeks have hated the Turks for centuries and most recently because of the Cyprus troubles. And quite a few Americans have spent times in Turkish prisons which apparently are horrible. There used to be a very short Turkish language programme on a local radio station, but it was quickly replaced by one in Armenian.

But the reemergence of Islam in Turkey illustrates a

fact which too many Americans would prefer to ignore, namely that Islam is becoming a force of tremendous scope and power in the world. Conferences go on all the time and one of the things that I find most boring in the Arab papers is the endless reporting on this or that conference. There is nothing new or news-worthy in another conference on agriculture and nutrition. But there is something significant in the spread, bit by bit, of organisations, magazines, people, currents of thought which increasingly have as their common focus Islam.

For people in the Middle East, that is not remarkable. But it is remarkable for those who live abroad and far away. For myself as historian, sociologist, and political observer it is most remarkable.

U.S. flexing military muscles but only against weak nations

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan has flexed U.S. military muscle in a way not seen since the Vietnam era but his critics say he has selected weak targets and, even so, is running serious risks.

Last week U.S. forces were involved on the Honduran border where the Nicaraguan government was fighting U.S.-backed guerrillas and in the Gulf of Sirte against Libyan forces.

Last October, American navy jets forced down an Egyptian airliner carrying men the United States said had hijacked the cruise ship Achille Lauro and killed an elderly American.

U.S. officials cite these actions, the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983, and Washington's backing of guerrillas in Angola, Afghanistan and Nicaragua as proof of a new global assertiveness under Reagan.

"America is back," Vice President George Bush said summing up the new stance, which the White House says has been made possible by a large U.S. military build-up since 1981.

Critics of Reagan cite the same actions to argue that the United States has picked easy targets because its military clout remains limited by the trauma of defeat in Vietnam.

"There is an attempt to appear as if the U.S. is back in a global policeman role but it is mostly theatre — we have targeted small, weak countries to show the U.S. has the will to use force," said Richard Barnett, an ex-state department official who heads the Liberal Institute for Policy Studies.

The attack which ousted a Marxist regime on tiny Grenada pitted some 7,000 American troops against 670 Cubans, many of them construction workers.

Libya, with a population of less than three million, does not have a reputation for great military prowess despite a large arsenal for its size. Reagan appeared to treat the naval confrontation as symbolic.

"You have sent a message to the whole world that the United States has the will and, through you, the ability to defend the free world's interests," he said in a message to the fleet.

Nicaragua, with a population of about three million, an army estimated at about 60,000 and a tiny air force, is no match for the United States.

Still, Washington has avoided sending American troops into combat with Nicaragua and instead backed a force of so-called contra rebels fighting the leftist government, just as it has supported proxy forces against Soviet-backed Marxist governments in Angola and Afghanistan.

One reason for Reagan's relative caution in committing armed forces to heavy fighting, analysts say, is the legacy of Vietnam, a bitter defeat which made the U.S. public wary of involvement in protracted conflicts far away.

Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger has said repeatedly that U.S. troops will not be committed to battle without the clear support of Congress and the American people.

A second reason for U.S. caution is the military power of the Soviet Union, Western diplomats said. The United States is anxious to avoid a direct confrontation which might spark war.

Critics of Reagan see risks of escalating violence in his military assertiveness, despite the small size of his selected targets.

Libya has threatened to hit U.S. targets worldwide in response to last week's naval confrontation.

If Libya succeeded in killing a number of Americans, Washington would probably feel compelled to begin bombing military bases and what it claims as "terrorist" training camps in Libya, according to former U.S. counter-terrorism official Robert Kupperman, who is now at Georgetown University.

If Libya responded to that by seizing American hostages, would the United States then respond by invading Libya, Kupperman wondered.

With regard to Nicaragua, some analysts are concerned that Washington may be drawn into war with Nicaragua if the guerrillas cannot oust the Sandinista government in Managua. Many diplomats doubt that the guerrillas can win.

Peter Bell, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, says the danger of America going to war would be great if some of the U.S. troops involved in continuing military exercises in Honduras are accidentally embroiled in fighting and killed.

Bell puts the chances of direct American involvement in combat over the next several years at one in three.



Lebanese media become latest weapon as well as target in power struggle

By Rodeina Kenaan
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Beirut once was the listening post of the Middle East and a haven for free speech in the Arab World. It had a lively press covering the spectrum of the region's politics.

Today it is a sharply divided place where Falangist present their side of the news on one channel of the state television network and the opposition present their views on another.

It is a place where militias shut down newspapers and smash presses at will.

And it is a country where even members of the same factions will close each other's radio stations or newspapers in inter-faction power struggles.

"The Lebanese press is no longer the press it used to be 10 years ago," said Talal Salzman, publisher and editor-in-chief of Beirut's As Safir daily.

"It is now a miserable press, a crippled press. The Lebanese press used to be the press of the Arabs. It is no longer."

Salzman narrowly escaped death last year when he was ambushed by unidentified gunmen in west Beirut, which has been ruled by militias since they drove out Falangist army units in February 1984.

More than 30 Lebanese journalists had been killed in fighting or slain because of their political viewpoints.

Several foreign correspondents and cameramen have been murdered or killed in action. Seven kidnapped newsmen or television crewmen are being held hostage by Shi'ite extremists.

The way the lines are drawn in Beirut is demonstrated in one way by the government television service.

Every day Lebanon's Channel 7 delivers the news from its studios in mainly Muslim west Beirut. A few kilometers away, across the "Green Line" in east Beirut, Channel 5 gives the Christian view of events.

Otherwise, both stations share programme schedules featuring movies, British comedy shows and American soap operas.

Feuds also can strike within the same faction.

In January, Falangist militia leader Elie Hobeika, locked in a power struggle with President Amin Gemayel and his Falange Party, closed down Falange's Al Amal daily when it criticised Hobeika's links with Syria.

Hobeika's men also took over the Voice of Lebanon radio, the Falange station, and smashed up

a weekly that supported Hobeika's militia rival, Samir Geagea.

After crushing Hobeika in bloody fighting Jan. 15, Gemayel in turn closed his rival's daily, Al Jomhouriyah. The Lebanese Forces militia, once headed by Hobeika but now run by Geagea, started their own television station last August.

Publishers and editors now fear that if the powerful militias reach a political settlement, press freedom will be squeezed even more.

"Any political solution in the future is bound to be reached at the expense of freedom of the press," said Lebanon's leading political commentator, Michel Abu Jaudeh, editor-in-chief of the independent An Nahar daily.

Mohammad Baalaki, chairman of the Lebanese Press Association, commented: "The press has suffered from the pressures resulting from chaotic lawlessness under the rule of the militias."

"This is the price the press has had to pay for its right to exercise its freedom no matter what. The kidnapping of journalists has done a lot of damage to the freedom of the press."

Censorship was imposed in 1977 after Syrian intervention and under pressure from Syrian forces in Beirut. Syrian censors went to work in the Lebanese capital and newspapers appeared with blank spaces where articles were ordered cut.

Censorship was scrapped last year after protests from publishers and editors.

Baalaki said: "The state of lawlessness has forced each newspaper in Beirut to make its own rules."

"Where before the journalist was governed by press laws, in the absence of government authority he's at the mercy of ... the law of the jungle."

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مكتبة الامم

Experts sceptical over Saudi AIDS test requirement

By Rory Channing
 Reuters

KUWAIT — Medical experts are questioning the effectiveness of a Saudi Arabian decree that visitors must prove they are free of the killer ailment AIDS, amid suggestions other countries may adopt an "AIDS blockade."

Saudi Arabia decreed in January that foreigners wanting entry visas must provide a medical certificate, authenticated by government authorities, to show they do not have AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

A top Kuwaiti health official said the United States had shown interest in the mechanics of the Saudi testing system.

The nature of its queries indicates "they are contemplating the idea, looking into the viability," Dr. Kazem Behbehani told Reuters in an interview.

Behbehani organised the Middle East's first conference on AIDS here last month under the auspices of Kuwait's Health Min-

istry and the Geneva-based World Health Organisation (WHO).

He personally doubts the U.S. or anyone else will adopt the Saudi policy, adding there was widespread opposition among health officials in the world to the idea.

"It would be a mess. It is impossible to control this way," he said, citing inadequate scientific know-how and testing facilities around the world. Implementing such programmes on a wide scale would also be very costly, he said.

"Also, a test could be negative one day, but if carried out later it could be positive," he said referring to the lengthy incubation time — up to five years — of the incurable and often fatal virus which destroys the body's immune system.

WHO says there are up to one million carriers in the U.S. alone who are symptom-free but capable of infecting others.

Behbehani said there had been conflicting reports about how Saudi Arabia was applying its pol-

icy, with some suggestion it was applied only to foreign workers from selected areas.

The idea of imposing an "AIDS blockade" in international travel was questioned at the conference here by Dr. Hussein Gezairy, WHO director for the Eastern Mediterranean.

"Some might consider demanding certificates of freedom of AIDS from internationalists," the former Saudi health minister told delegates.

Among other problems, he warned, this "may reinstate the yellow quarantine flag-type of thinking... to be practical, have we asked ourselves how many laboratories are qualified to give such certificates?"

Since AIDS was first identified in 1981, some 20,000 cases have been diagnosed worldwide. It is most prevalent among homosexuals, but also attacks heterosexuals, intravenous drug users and blood transfusion recipients. Three-quarters of reported

cases have been in the United States and many of the others in Europe. But other areas have not escaped unscathed.

The world press and medical community also came under fire at last month's conference for making too much fuss over AIDS.

"We professionals must realise that we and the press have contributed rather unwisely to fuel what is becoming an international neurosis," Gezairy said.

"It is receiving the widest publicity ever accorded to any disease with such a short history," he said. AIDS, he added, had assumed "a significance considerably greater than that of many other prevalent and killing diseases."

The WHO Director-General, Dr. Halfdan Mahler, warned last year that African countries should be careful not to give priority to fighting AIDS while neglecting other killer diseases.

"AIDS is not spreading like bush fire in Africa," he said, adding that Malaria and other tropical

diseases were killing children every day.

WHO nevertheless has become so concerned about AIDS that it last month set up a special two-man unit, scheduled to start work in June, to combat the illness.

Dr. Jonathan Mann, an American chosen to head the team, said after his appointment the number of cases was doubling annually and his top priority was to improve the flow of information on AIDS and education.

While health officials privately acknowledge the role of the media in ramming home the dangers of AIDS, they also feel the glare of publicity acts as a double-edged sword.

The stigma attached to AIDS, because homosexuality is its primary mode of transmission, has prompted many governments to shy away from divulging information about it, Gezairy said.

Black African countries especially have been angered by reports the virus originated in the

continent. Some scientists have theorised that African monkeys first harboured AIDS before humans contracted it through bites or eating the monkeys' meat.

Although WHO officials cite several hundred known cases of AIDS in Africa, only Kenya and South Africa acknowledge its existence, conceding its presence on only a small scale.

In the Islamic World only two cases have been officially acknowledged — by Saudi Arabia.

Blood transfusions were blamed for both cases, which were first disclosed outside the region, in a report by the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh quoted last January in an American Medical Association journal.

An action plan produced at the Kuwait conference called for "balanced information on AIDS, particularly on the modes of transmission," and set as a key objective "calming unwarranted fears" through information and educational programmes.

Randa Habib's
 Column

After all, isn't it nice to dream?

I HOPE YOU will forgive me; all of you who called those telephone numbers 644978, 642976 on Tuesday and Wednesday. But you should have guessed that the centre set up specially to take applications for a free trip to France was in fact the AFP office where I work. Remember last year's phone numbers that you were supposed to call to apply for the movie of Mel Brooks.... they were also the same numbers. That was a hint. Some of you picked it up and called to say that they guessed it was on April fool's joke.

As for the rest — mechanical engineers, secretaries, tennis trainers, civil engineers, pilots, company directors, chief accountants, factory owners, interior designers, journalists, young university graduates and others I hope you were not too disappointed on Wednesday to read the front page of the Jordan Times and realise it was April fool's day.

Remember my last column: I told you I was going to switch jobs, enter into business and open a "dream shop" — this is what I did in fact. For 24 hours, we sold you a dream, a beautiful one; 19 days in France and to French Guyana with special treats.

That would be nice. Wouldn't it? Anyhow, maybe this joke will encourage the French government to organise this "dream" trip for Jordanians, as so many of us seem to be interested in space programmes and in visiting installations of the European rocket Ariane.

I hope you will forgive me for organising the April fool's joke. After all, it is nice to dream, even if the dream does not come true.

Cagney — a film tough guy who liked to call himself a 'hooper'

By Ronald Clarke
 Reuters

LOS ANGELES — James Cagney, who died March 30 at home aged 86, was one of Hollywood's biggest stars and most famous tough guys.

He became an overnight star in 1931 by squashing a grapefruit in the face of Mae Clarke in the film "Public Enemy."

But he always prided himself on an ability to dance.

"Once a hooper, always a hooper," said Cagney, who danced his way out of Hell's Kitchen, one of New York city's toughest ghettos.

Of the 61 films Cagney made during his 30 years as a top box office attraction, the only one he watched in his later years, when his red hair had turned silver, was the musical "Yankee Doodle dandy."

Cagney won an Academy Award in 1942 for his portrayal of entertainer George M. Cohan in the film.

"I didn't go to Hollywood to play Hamlet," he said. "I went to do a job of work, take the money and run. I always thought of myself as a song and dance man."

He played a wide variety of film roles, including naval officers, businessmen, soldiers, boxers and newspaper reporters.

But it was as the fast-talking, hot-tempered gangster, who could

express every mood with a twitch of his shoulders or a poke of a finger that the filmgoing public remembered Cagney.

He made film history in only his fourth picture with the grapefruit squashing scene.

The film, made in 16 days in 1931 at a cost of only \$150,000, established a new kind of screen celebrity for a public brought up on clean-living heroes and made Cagney a star overnight.

Other stars began pushing women around, but it was the grapefruit scene that became part of film history.

Cagney said later his character was based partly on a gangster named Hymie Weiss, who threw an omelette in a girl's face. "I don't think we could afford an omelette," he said.

He pushed gangster films to further horizons in "White Heat," in 1949, when he not only sobbed in his mother's lap but threw a crying tantrum in prison when told his mother had died. "Top of da world, ma," he shouted as he died on top of an exploding oil tank.

But he denied ever saying "you dirty rat" in a film, an expression seized on by imitators.

His films included "Doorway to Hell," "The Crowd Roars," "Winner Takes All," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Each Dawn I Die," "The Strawberry Blonde," "Johnny Come Lately"

"Blood on The Sun," "What Price Glory" and "Mr. Roberts."

Cagney was born on July 17, 1899, on the lower east side of New York that later became the setting for some of his 20-odd gangster films. His father died when he was 14 and Cagney went to work as an office boy at the now-defunct New York Sun.

He picked up the hunched-shoulder shrug that became one of his trademarks from a pimp when he was a youth.

"He was a tall dude with a straw hat and an electric blue suit. All day he'd stand around and do just that," Cagney said.

He was wrapping parcels in a department store when a friend persuaded him to go for an audition as a dancer. "I couldn't dance worth a damn then," Cagney said.

But he got the job, in a show called "Every Sailor," only to discover he had to wear a tutu and a red wig and appear as a chorus girl. He took the role because it paid \$35 a week, twice what he was earning wrapping parcels.

Cagney landed a role as a song and dance man in a better-paying show. "Pitter patter," on Broadway and met a chorus girl, Billie Vernon, in the company.

They married and had two children, James and Cathleen. They teamed up as a double act and ran a dancing school in New Jersey, but the going was hard. "No food

in the larder, big holes in the shoes," Cagney wrote in his autobiography, "Cagney by Cagney." Cagney always maintained his years as a dancer were vital to his career as an actor, keeping him light on his feet and enabling him to express himself with a quick movement. He went through a dance workout each day to keep fit.

Cagney's break came in 1930, when he appeared in a Broadway play, "Penny Arcade," with Joan Blondell. The late Al Jolson sold the screen rights and Cagney and Blondell were called to Hollywood to appear in the film. It was called "Sinner's Holiday."

Mrs. Cagney gave up her career to help further her husband's and disappeared from the limelight. Cagney was nominated for an Academy Award for his roles in "Angels With Dirty Faces" (1938) and "Love Me or Leave Me" (1955).

While other studios were promoting such handsome heroes as Clark Gable, Robert Taylor and Tyrone Power, the compact, bantam-sized Cagney, who never lost his New York accent, became one of Hollywood's biggest stars of all time.

But he unexpectedly announced his retirement in 1961, after completing "One, Two, Three," in which he played an American business tycoon in

Germany.

"I said to myself, 'That's it, baby,'" Cagney said. "And that was it. I retired."

Cagney, by now a millionaire, took up writing verse, painting and playing the guitar. He also raised cattle on his farm in Dutchess County, in New York state.

He received hundreds of film offers and was tempted out of retirement to play a cameo role, that of police commissioner Waldo in Milos Forman's "Ragtime" in 1981. In 1983, he made a film for television.

In 1974, Cagney became the first actor to receive the Life Achievement Award of the American Film Institute, which was set up to preserve old films and to train film writers, directors and technicians.

In accepting the award, Cagney recalled his youth — "In the stimulating environment which produced that unmistakable touch of the gutter without which this evening might never have happened at all."

He suffered a slight stroke in 1977, and diabetes affected his ability. He sold his sloop and retired to his farm.

"The behaviour of the little fellow I played was cocky, sure," he once said. "He was a simple fellow, but actors have to be like that. There is no substitute on the screen for sincerity."

Sudan grapples with problem of amputees inherited from Numeiri

By Jonathan Wright
 Reuters

KHARTOUM — Ata Mohamed Zakaria wraps the stump of his right arm in a piece of cloth and tucks it deep in the pocket of his smart blue jacket whenever he ventures out of his hut in the Khartoum suburb of Umm Bakda.

"When you walk in the street, people point at you and whisper. There goes a thief, had his hand cut off," they seem to be saying," explained Ata, an articulate 20-year-old caught trying to detach a car radio in August 1984.

Khaled Hassan, 23, convicted of picking 150 pounds (\$60) from someone's pocket in December of the same year, has a different method of hiding his disgrace. He lets the sleeve of his white robe hang loose over the stump and greets his friends awkwardly with a left-handed handshake.

Omar Adam, 31, another amputee under the controversial Islamic Sharia law of deposed Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri, dares not visit his wife and three children on Aba island south of the capital. "The scandal would be terrible. I just can't go," he told Reuters.

Convicted mugger Ibrahim Salata, 28, who lost his right hand

and left foot in Khartoum's infamous Kober jail, spent three months recovering in hospital, followed by six months crawling around his shantytown hovel before friends saved up the 55 pounds (\$22) he needed for an artificial leg.

Lawyers working on behalf of these and other Islamic law amputees estimate that some 300 Sudanese lost one limb or more during what they call the year of terror between early 1984 and the overthrow of Numeiri in April 1985.

Many were youngsters from the provinces, drawn to Khartoum by the prospect of employment but often sadly disappointed by the reality of life in the capital of one of the world's poorest nations.

"Numeiri's emergency courts routinely passed down sentences of amputation on petty criminals found guilty of stealing property worth 100 pounds (\$40) or more."

"It was one law for the rich and one for the poor. They shouldn't have cut off Ata's hand, they should have found him some work," said Mahmoud Al Sayyed, owner of the car Ata Mohamed was tampering with on that August day.

Sayyed told Reuters he tried to drop the charges against Ata but gave up when the police warned him that any attempt to contact the judge would make him an acc-

omplice and liable to the same penalty.

Legal experts from Sudan's mainstream political parties have discredited Numeiri's version of Sharia, which mixed Islamic punishments with English common law rules of evidence and largely ignored defendants' financial circumstances.

Despite the change in the political and legal atmosphere, the amputees say they are far from confident that the present transitional government or its successor after April elections will help them face the future.

Taha Ibrahim, a radical lawyer trying to register the "Association of Sudanese Amputees" for their welfare, says they have special social and psychological problems on top of the financial and medical difficulties they share with other handicapped people.

Three have killed themselves, many have lost the support of their families and all find it virtually impossible to find work because of the criminal stigma they bear, he said.

Police regularly pull them in for vagrancy or on suspicion, according to a European who follows their cases. Ata Mohamed spent one night in jail because he happened to be on a bus at the time of a pickpocketing, he said.

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Waldegaard wins Kenyan Safari for third time

NAIROBI (R) — Veteran Swede Bjorn Waldegaard drove to a comfortable win in the Kenya Safari motor rally Wednesday finishing almost 30 minutes clear of the pack he had led from the start.

Waldegaard scored his third victory in the African classic in a Toyota Celica T.C. which he labelled the ideal car for the boulder-strewn mountain tracks and swollen torrents that make the rally such a gruelling ordeal.

This year's 4,206-kilometre event was 1,000 kilometres shorter than usual at the insistence of the International Motor Sports Federation. But Waldegaard said this had made it no easier.

"I think it actually was tougher this year because some of the roads were rougher," he told jour-

nalists after celebrating his victory with champagne.

Waldegaard, the only foreigner to have won the rally more than once, broke a wheel hub on the final leg, forcing him to drive more than 100 kilometres with brakes on only three wheels.

Waldegaard was followed home by fellow Swede Lars-Eric Torph, making his Safari debut in a Toyota.

Torph said it was frustrating that Waldegaard had taken such an early and decisive lead, but he was nevertheless pleased to have finished second.

Torph was followed home by Finland's Markku Alen in a Lancia Rallye 037. Alen snatched third place from West Germany's Erwin Weber despite a troubled first day when his car landed on its side.

In a frantic attack just 300 kilometres from the end of the rally, Alen threw out his spare wheel to lighten the car. His bid was backed by a Lancia team car and helicopter in case of further problems.

Weber, who lost the rally last year when his Opel broke down within sight of victory, had pro-

blems late in the race once again, this time in a Toyota. He broke a brake disc and had to drive on three brakes for a considerable distance.

Defending champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland, 27, Wednesday, said he was not disappointed at finishing fifth in his Peugeot 205 T16 although at one point on the final night he was within 60 seconds of third place.

Only 16 of the 69 entrants finished the course including Kenya's five times winner Shekhar Mehta, who came in eighth in a Peugeot. Mehta described conditions this year as "horrible, just dusty, unbelievably bad."

Kenyan Mike Kirkland and Frank Tundo finished sixth and seventh.

Top cricketer to retire soon

ADELAIDE (R) — Sir Donald Bradman, Australia's most famous cricketer, announced Wednesday he was severing his last official ties with the game he has dominated both as a player and administrator for the past 59 years.

Bradman, 77, arguably the greatest batsman of all-time, will retire at the end of June from his positions as trustee of the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) and member of its ground and finance committee.

PSG, Bordeaux qualify for French cup semifinals

PARIS (R) — Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Bordeaux qualified for the semifinals of the French soccer cup with home victories in the second leg of the quarter-finals Tuesday night.

First division leaders Paris Saint-Germain recovered from last weekend's 2-1 first leg defeat to beat Lens 2-0 and clinch their semifinal place 3-2 on aggregate.

Full-back Michel Bihard opened the scoring with a 43rd minute header and Yugoslav midfielder Safet Susic netted the all-important second eight minutes after the interval.

Champions Bordeaux, 1-0 up after the first leg against second division Tours, scored another 1-0 victory thanks to a goal by former international Rene Girard in the

81st minute.

Rennes joined the two favorites in the last four after defeating fellow-first division Auxerre 2-1 in extra-time. The sides were level at 1-1 after 90 minutes, the same score as in the first leg.

The fourth quarter-final between second division leaders racing club Paris and first division Olympique Marseilles will be played next Tuesday. Marseilles won the first leg 2-1.

Nantes reduced Paris Saint-Germain's lead at the top of the first division to five points with a 3-1 league defeat of Brest. But their hopes of overhauling PSG remain slim.

With five matches left PSG lead with 51 points from Nantes (46) and Bordeaux (43).

Britain launches prospective America's Cup challenger

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — Britain's prospective challenger for the 1987 America's Cup was launched at dusk Tuesday, but the fading light failed to deflect the close attention of its chief competitor.

Observers from the syndicate of Australian Alan Bond, the 1983 cup-winner, kept a careful watch as the Britons eased their yacht Crusader into the water in a low key ceremony characteristic of the secrecy surrounding cup challenges.

"No sooner had we removed the box from around the keel than the Bond syndicate support boats were off our dock having a look."

Chris Law of the British organization said.

Bond is indirectly a sponsor of this new challenge through one of his British companies, Airship Industries. He has said he would rather race the British than any of the 13 other would-be challengers.

The 12-metre Crusader slipped into its Indian Ocean marina after two weeks of fitting out at the Fremantle America's Cup dockside.

The first of two yachts from the British challenge, Crusader will be followed in May by a more radically designed 12-metre.

Pollution and passion await visitors to World Cup finals

MEXICO CITY (R) — Seven in the morning and the blue skies over the Metropolis are just starting to turn a murky brown as thousands of smoke-belching cars and factories in the valley of Mexico City begin a new day.

By noon the air will be heavy with the bitter tang of octane, visibility will be down to about a mile — and the World Cup will be kicking off.

On May 31 at mid-day in the giant Aztec stadium, Bulgaria and 1982 World Cup winners Italy will launch an event which has come to represent something far more than a sporting festival for this huge, wounded city.

Last September 10,000 of its people died and almost as many buildings were destroyed in just three surreal minutes in one of the century's worst earthquakes.

Coming on top of years of relentlessly rising prices and falling living standards it was a crushing blow and one which for a time seemed to jeopardise the 1986 World Cup finals.

That the event should be staged, that there be some good news for a change, has become a national priority, to the extent many feel the government is more interested in the World Cup than caring for the thousands of homeless, many of whom still live in tents along the city streets.

Now that most of the rubble has been cleared, these little villages of canvas remain as a poignant reminder of the tragedy.

Whether the estimated 40,000 fans who arrive here will see them

is another matter — such things are not good for the image and few people would be surprised if they are quietly but forcefully removed before the day.

But whatever moves are made to clean up this the world's largest city, the perhaps inevitable results of cramming 18 million people — more than the population of Australia — into a dried lake bed 7,000 feet up will be all too evident.

Nowhere will it be more so than in the south-eastern district of Nezahualcoyotl where nearly three million people eke out an existence in countless rows of dusty ramshackle shacks in what is generally known as the largest slum in the world.

The teams with the dubious honour of starting their challenge in Nezahualcoyotl stadium are Scotland, Denmark and Uruguay.

Mexico City's other two stadiums are situated in the wealthy southern part of the city, the more famous being the giant, 110,000-capacity Aztec stadium where the final will be played on June 29.

It was in the Aztec stadium that Brazil beat Italy 4-1 16 years ago in what many feel was one of the best matches of an outstanding tournament.

Hosts Mexico play here in the opening round, along with Belgium, Paraguay and Iraq, while the 1968 Olympic stadium will welcome Argentina, South Korea and Bulgaria.

In contrast to the sheer, drab massiveness of the Aztec, the 80,000-capacity Olympic stadium is a stylish, modern arena, dominated by a relief depicting Mexico's Indian heritage and surrounded by the national autonomous University of Mexico with its massive murals by the country's most famous painter Diego Rivera.

This part of the city, and specifically the San Angel and Coyacan areas nearby, are the city's colonial showpieces, with their Spanish houses, cobbled streets and alamo-style churches.

But how badly will all this pollution, the thin air and the food — source of the stomach complaint known as the Aztec two-step — going to affect the average football fan?

The answer is probably little.

England goalkeeper Gordon Banks was a dramatic casualty of the food in 1970 and Indian President Zail Singh nearly keeled over for lack of air in a 1984 visit but such dire effects are rare.

The basic rule for visitors is to avoid excess — but on a less serious note, an alcoholic drink has twice the effect at this altitude.

On safety matters, it is wiser to stay away from the rougher areas of town and guide books point out that is best to remember Mexican policemen may not be the paragons of virtue fans might be used to back home.

Pollution is unlikely to be a problem for the short-term visitor although several newcomers complain of smarting eyes and sore throats.

They are unlikely to complain too much of the heat however. The main advantage of the altitude is that it keeps the city relatively cool — but expect short thunderstorms every afternoon.

Most foreign residents are gleefully full of environmental horror stories but concede that Mexico's capital goes a long way towards making amends with the spirit of jovial chaos that pervades most areas of life.

After such a gruelling six months, the town and its people are more than ready for a fiesta — and World Cup 1986 promises to be one of the biggest.

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SAVE THE CHILDREN RUG EXHIBITION

The public is invited to an exhibition of rugs woven by the Bedouin women of Jabal Bani Hamida, at Qasr Mamdouh Bisharat at Um Al-Kundum on Friday & Saturday April 4-5 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Jordan summer time. (Take Airport Highway from 7th Circle. After 15 km turn right at Yadoudeh/Arab Horse Club turn-off. Go ½ km uphill toward Horse Club and take 1st left.) Orders for rugs can be made at the exhibition. Help 100 women increase their income.

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5th Circle, Jabal Amman. Please call: 811229, 651980

Jordan Times Tel: 666320
666265

NOTICE JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY PREQUALIFICATION OF CIVIL WORKS CONTRACTORS AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION STAGE II

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) intends to issue forms for prequalifications of contractors for civil works for the extension of Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

The stage II expansion consists of 2 x 130 MW dual fired steam electric generating units cooled by sea water. The civil works contract involves large sophisticated civil and marine works such as foundation works for the steam turbines, generators, boilers, and all other mechanical and electrical auxiliary equipment as well as supply and installation of yard piping, all concrete and structural buildings, building services, excavations, roads, drainage systems, and etc. It is hoped that contractors with similar experience in this type of work would participate in this tender.

Arab and international development funds will participate in financing this project.

Forms of prequalifications will be available from:

Jordan Electricity Authority
Purchase and Procurement Department
Jabal Amman - Seventh Circle
Tel: 815615
P.O. Box 2310
Amman - Jordan

Starting from 2.4.1986 for a non-returnable fee of JD 30 (90 U.S. dollars) for each set (2 copies each) payable to JEA.

The last day for accepting the prequalification forms, filled in, will be 15.5.1986 before 12:00 a.m. at the procurement and purchase department, JEA offices - Amman.

REQUIRED FOR EMPLOYMENT

We need female representatives to work for the Jordanian International Establishment for Organising Trade Exhibitions.

Nature of work — field work in public relations — full time job morning and afternoon. Good salaries with commissions. No previous experience required. Preference will be for candidates who own private cars.

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The Jordanian International Establishment for
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Jabal Lweibdeh, Sharia College Street - Dabbas
Building 1st floor
Tel: 621540

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All applications should be in English or Arabic and include name, address and telephone number of applicants, and posted to: P.O. Box 776 - Amman, within four days from today. Envelope should be marked (application for employment).

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For contact: Call 622183, 653008 and 821454

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Tel: 634144 - 634149

RUNAWAY

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

ZANJEER

(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema OPERA

Abdali, behind Alia offices

PERFECT

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4690/4700	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3909/14	Canadian dollars
	2.3660/70	West German marks
	2.6655/70	Dutch guilders
	1.9673/83	Swiss francs
	48.23/28	Belgian francs
	7.2575/2625	French francs
	1607/1609	Italian lire
	179.17/27	Japanese yen
	7.3925/75	Swedish crowns
	7.2960/3010	Norwegian crowns
	8.7240/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	335.40/335.90	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equity prices closed at record high levels as optimism over the prospects for lower interest rates and inflation outweighed the market's early nervousness over Wall Street's declines overnight, dealers said.

At 1455 GMT the FTSE 100 index had risen 20.3 to a record high 1704.3, crossing the 1700 barrier for the first time. The index had dipped to a low of 1674.1 in early dealings. The FT 30 index at 1400 GMT was up 16.8 to a new high of 1419.0.

Dealers said the upturn in oil prices, with North Sea deliveries posting gains of around \$1, firm sterling and continuing stock shortages boosted the market on Wednesday.

A comment from the chief economist at National Westminster Bank, David Kern, that U.K. clearing bank base rates could go as low as 10 per cent from the current 11½ per cent helped the morning's rally from the initial lows.

Oils were hit in early trading by press comment about Tuesday's drop in crude prices but the morning's gains of \$1 per barrel helped shares in the sector to move ahead. B.P. closed 2p higher at 558, Shell finished 22p up at 758 while Enterprise Oil put on 5p to 142 following annual results.

Leading equities saw ICI close 6p up at 957 after 942, Vickers up 20p to 513 and Thorn EMI 7p up at 529 after 509.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day is not time to get out from under an apparently onerous situation, but as the day advances, you find that you will be able to make progress.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Keep business affairs separate from personal ones and you can gain a long-time wish today. Get busy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't enter into any argument between a partner and an official and later a bigwig shows you how to get ahead faster.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be alert to extra benefits that can be yours, even while continuing with routines, and tonight you get an inspired new thought.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A good day to plan new entertainments, but be sure to stay within your budget.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Being with a clever associate who can help you to improve your status in life should come first and foremost today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Buy that new gadget that can make some important work ahead much easier to perform. Show that you are devoted to family.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't discuss that entertainment matter with a loved one in the morning, and later show your fine ability at this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Do not enter an argument between a home tie and a stranger, and it will soon blow over.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get your time scheduled sensibly so that you can get duties handled and visits made that are important.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may have an argument with your mate, but you win out. Be more attuned to modern methods of operating.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Postpone until later those talks with kin, since the morning would only bring dispersion. After lunch, logic will prevail.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) After noon would be best for studying some situation and investigating it to your profit. Morning is better for handling business affairs.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she may do poorly in school because of lack of sufficient study and inability to understand material clearly, but teach to be more industrious, and your progeny will end up ahead of others. A certain originality of thought and action here leads to great success in life.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early morning delays are soon replaced by a chance to put into motion your most talented gifts, so watch for the best ways you can make headway.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) First handle a long-time responsibility and then get into the activities that mean much to you with the aid of interesting friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep that outside promise to a partner early, and later retire to the quiet of your study and plan how to become more successful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Once you get important work done, be out socially with persons who can assist you in gaining some personal wish.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Keep a promise to your mate in the morning, and then handle the outside obligations that need quick attention.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Take care of that home affair, and then get into outside activities that are interesting and can be most profitable to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Hang on to any situation that can bring greater concord between you and your mate. Be more practical in business.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Someone who is intrigued with one of your talents should be listened to. Concentrate on one particular desire and go after it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are dynamic today and can accomplish a good deal and also get rid of obstacles in the path of your progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) See a bigwig who will appreciate your ability and be helpful to you. Don't stay up late tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be more concerned with needs of your family, even if you are pressured to get something done. Treat them nicely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are so enthused about showing your finest capabilities to the right people that not a moment should be lost in doing so.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may get some excellent ideas that should be jotted down so that you do not forget them.

IMF team to examine Philippines' debt problem, economic performance

MANILA (R) — A team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will visit the Philippines this month to hold talks on the country's debt problem and check on its economic performance, banking sources said.

Presidential spokesman, Mr. Rene Saguisag, said Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez and Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin will also visit the United States and Japan this month for talks with lenders.

He told reporters the two gave reports to the cabinet Wednesday on the nation's financial situation. He added that there were wide-ranging suggestions about its debt problem.

The Philippines owes foreign

lenders \$26.4 billion.

Mr. Saguisag declined to say if Mr. Fernandez and Mr. Ongpin will carry any proposals to discuss with the lenders but added that words like "repudiation," "restructuring" and "renegotiations" were used at the cabinet meeting.

He declined to give any details, saying: "The idea is to keep the other side guessing."

The Philippines must comply with monetary and fiscal goals set by the IMF as preconditions for a \$10 billion rescue package set up by foreign commercial banks. This will also allow it to draw the last part of an IMF standby credit of 615 million Special Drawing Rights (\$695 million).

A money supply ceiling set by

the IMF was breached during elections last February because of government overspending under the rule of ousted president Ferdinand Marcos, Mr. Ongpin said last month.

President Corason Aquino has said she wants easier repayment terms on the foreign debt, while some of her cabinet colleagues have suggested selective repudiation of foreign credits advanced to friends of Marcos.

A two-man team from the IMF arrived in Manila in the middle of last month to check on compliance with its goals, but the fund has made no mention of its findings.

The Philippines has made no principal repayments on its foreign debt since October 1983.

Egypt, USSR said near debt payment agreement

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and the Soviet Union are close to agreement on repayment of military debts owed to Moscow, the political weekly Al-Mussawwar said Wednesday.

Egypt viewed as "excessive" Soviet estimates putting the debts at \$1.5 billion, accumulated over nearly 20 years since 1955, it said.

"The Egyptian side thinks the figure is in excess and wants it reconsidered," wrote editor Makram Mohammed Ahmad.

Mr. Ahmad, a close advisor of President Hosni Mubarak, said: "The two sides are about to reach a compromise, which will involve a cut in the total debt and allow some sort of rescheduling which conforms with Egypt's present

capacity."

Egypt, now one of Washington's closest Arab allies, was totally dependent on Soviet arms supplies from 1955 until shortly after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war when Cairo, under the late president Anwar Sadat, turned to the U.S. for weapons.

Sadat's break with Moscow began in 1972 when he expelled 17,000 Soviet military advisers. He ordered out the Soviet ambassador nine years later, saying he incited sedition.

Cairo and Moscow restored full diplomatic relations in 1984 and ties have been slowly improving, with Egypt still heavily dependent on U.S. military and civil aid, now running at over \$2 billion a year.

Hong Kong's new unified exchange begins trading

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's share market took a step into the future Wednesday as trading began on a unified stock exchange, turning 10 years of planning into reality.

To the cheers of hundreds of red-smoked brokers and assembled guests, financial secretary Sir John Brembridge used a radio telephone to signal the exchange's computer room to let trading begin.

"It is an important step for trade and industry," he said as he announced the opening.

Moments later a huge electronic display board recorded the first trade on the new exchange as 100,000 shares of Swire Pacific "B" were sold at six dollars (76 U.S. cents) each.

The new exchange merges the operations of four old markets, one of which dates back to the 19th century.

Exchange Chairman Ronald Li told reporters: "For the past 10 years we have worked hard to

produce what you now physically observe."

Government officials have long pushed for the merger, believing that one exchange is easier to monitor than four.

"It is clearly easier to concentrate on one trading floor," securities commissioner, Mr. Ray Astin, told Reuters.

Stockbrokers said that despite fears of long trading delays from the exchange's newly computerized quotation system, there was only an occasional snag.

"We had some problems as people were unfamiliar with the system but on the whole it worked fairly well," said a broker.

But other unanticipated problems emerged.

"I saw one fellow standing in the middle of the trading floor yelling for some stock," said a broker. "In the middle of that huge hall no one heard him."

Investors gave the new exchange a less than rousing reception.

IDB to lend Tunisia \$7m

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), under an agreement signed here, is to extend a \$7 million credit to Tunisia to help finance the country's sulphur imports.

The loan will bring total IDB financial assistance to Tunisia over the past six months to \$21.5 million.

Finns strike for pay rises

HELSINKI (R) — Militant Finnish state employees Wednesday went on indefinite strike for pay rises of up to 20 per cent after brushing aside a late call from the government for a postponement of their action.

The State Employees' Union said the strike by 15,000 of its members would stop rail traffic in the Helsinki region, upset domestic and international flights and affect postal and other public services.

It warned that the expanded nationwide stoppage by more than 40,000 employees it has scheduled from April 16 would bite much deeper into the national economy.

The government made its call just before the strike began when the centre-left coalition unanimously backed Tuesday's appeal by national mediator Mr. Teuvo Kallio, that the union should defer its action for two weeks pending further talks.

But when told by a senior spokesman that the employees now directly confronted the government, union chairman, Mr. Kallio Rantala, said: "We were aware of that already. In this case the government and the employer are one and the same."

His remark was followed by an absolute rejection from the union executive, which had split earlier in the day over the national mediator's request.

Finnair, the national airline, said half or more of all European and other international flights would be maintained. But the strike had forced their diversion from Helsinki to Turku and Tampere, with bus transport laid on to the capital.

The union is seeking a six per cent pay raise plus hefty compensation for employees' income lagging behind other sectors in recent years. Together this could mean rises of up to 20 per cent, officials on both sides said.

Union and other labour market sources said the employees had become increasingly restless because they felt an unfair share of the rewards of an economy improving from such factors as oil price cuts was going to blue-collar workers.

Oil prices stage recovery as U.S. shows concern

LONDON (R) — Oil prices recovered slightly Wednesday amid signs that Washington is worried enough about the recent free fall to exert pressure on key producers for more stability in one of the world's most important commodities.

Crude oil prices tumbled to their lowest in over 12 years Tuesday as a glutted world oil market, disarray within the once-powerful Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the approach of warmer weather in the northern hemisphere combined to drive prices below \$10 a barrel.

Oil from Britain's North Sea Brent field for delivery this month perked up to \$10.70 a barrel Wednesday morning after sinking to just over \$9 Tuesday, less than at any time since Brent oil came on stream in 1977.

Oil has not been cheaper since the devastating Arab oil embargo of 1973. More dramatically, Wednesday's prices are barely a third of those fetched last November, before OPEC abandoned its already flouted production ceilings in pursuit of what it deemed a "fair share" of the world oil market.

The modest overnight recovery in the jittery oil market appeared to be triggered largely by signals from the Reagan administration that oil prices have probably fallen enough.

U.S. Vice President George Bush, who departs Thursday on a nine-day trip to the Middle East, told reporters on Tuesday that he would stress to Saudi Arabia the need for stable oil prices and the damage the recent price slump is inflicting on some sections of the American economy.

Some London oil analysts are speculating that in his discussions with Gulf officials Mr. Bush may even threaten to tax oil imports to protect the domestic U.S. market.

"They (the Americans) are sticking to their non-intervention role but could threaten to impose an oil import tax," said Mr. Mike Unsworth of London stockbroker Scott Goff Layton. "This would leave OPEC out in the cold."

Although the Wall Street stock market has powered ahead largely on the perceived overall benefits of cheaper oil, prices as low as \$10 or even \$5 a barrel would carry the situation into unknown territory.

While lower energy costs have convinced many economists that growth in the U.S. and world economies this year will be better than earlier hoped, the Reagan administration is now fretting over the possible wider impact.

The depth and speed of the price collapse has forced many marginal U.S. oil wells to close and has dented the profits of many businesses serving the oil and gas industries.

Banks from Texas to Alaska who have lent heavily to oil companies are having sleepless nights, and unemployment has ballooned in some areas dependent on oil company earnings.

Worried that diminishing U.S. oil production might jeopardise U.S. security, Mr. Bush said his

Last weekend, United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba warned that prices could sink as low as \$5 a barrel if OPEC failed to agree on production cuts when it next met.

Kuwait boosts output

Meanwhile, Kuwait, one of the richest Arab oil states, has boosted its crude production by undercutting competitors' prices to cushion the impact of the crash in oil markets. Gulf-based oil industry sources said Wednesday.

"Kuwaiti crude is the cheapest in the Gulf now," said one source.

The sources estimated Kuwait had pumped 1.3-1.4 million barrels of crude a day (b/d) over the past two months — 50 per cent above its quota under a pact abandoned last November by OPEC.

Sales contracts already sealed for April suggested output this month would average 1.5 million b/d, the sources said.

They said that in an effort to push exports, mainly to Japanese users, Kuwait was pricing its sales at a discount to the average of the spot, or free market, prices of crude produced by Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, and Oman.

Buyers were offered a "volume incentive" in which discounts widened for any purchase of over one million barrels, the sources said.

The sources said their output estimates excluded so-called war relief crude pumped in the Neutral Zone under a production-sharing pact between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and sold for Iraq, whose Gulf ports were knocked out early in its 5-1/2-year-old war with Iran.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei warned recently of a possible blockade against such sales. "Some countries admit they sell oil for Iraq," he told Tehran radio. "Iraq is at war with us. Everyone will accept that, should we make the decision some day, we can confiscate the oil sold for Iraq."

The sources estimated Neutral Zone production had fallen to around 150,000 b/d, pumped in equal shares by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, from double that level or more last year.

They attributed the slump to pricing policy, under which the crude is sold under netback arrangements at a price less attractive to buyers than recent prices charged by Kuwait for its own crude.

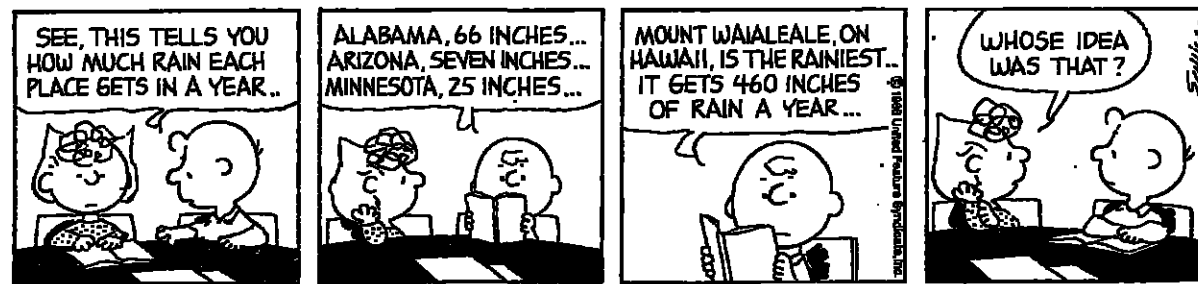
Kuwait was the only country to publicly commit itself to a cut in its production quota at a marathon meeting in Geneva last month.

Venezuela will aggressively seek oil market share

On the other hand, Venezuela intends to continue aggressively seeking its share of the international oil market, a group of Venezuelan oil executives said Tuesday in New York.

The executives told oil industry officials that Venezuela would continue its policy of maintaining oil production at current levels and pricing that crude at market levels to ensure market share.

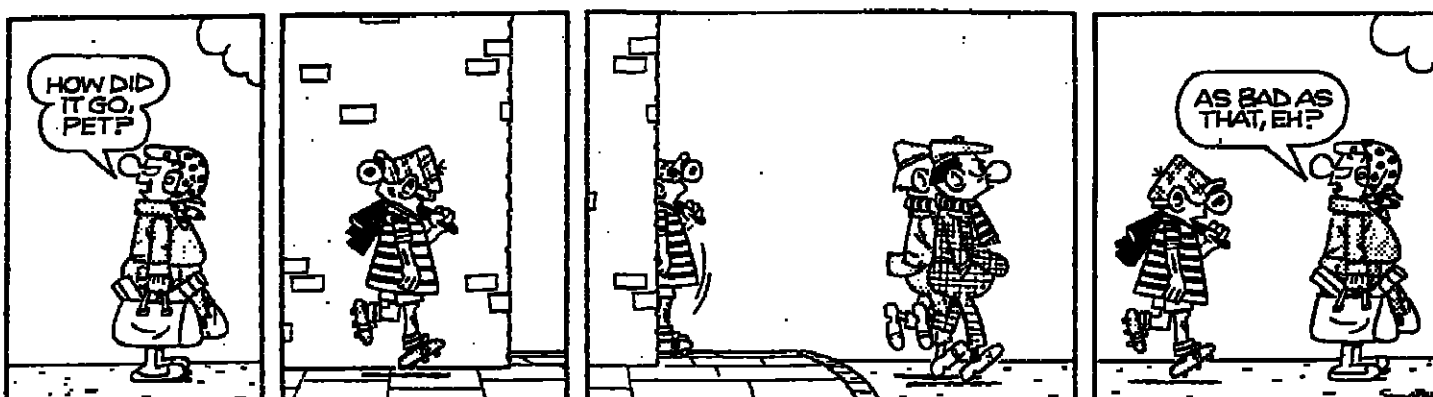
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

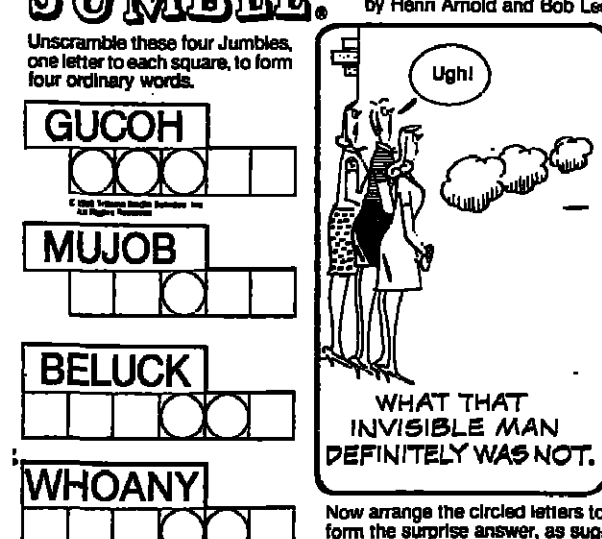
By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: TO AT

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: LOFTY MANLY SCHEME BODICE

Answer: How a shoplifter takes things— AS HE FINDS THEM

Aquino government moves against Marcos associates

MANILA (R) — President Corazon Aquino's administration said Wednesday associates of ousted leader Ferdinand Marcos had not accounted for 3.2 billion pesos (\$150 million) in government money advanced to them under his rule.

The new government also sequestered 34 companies belonging to two close friends of Marcos — sugar baron Roberto Benedicto and "coconut king" Eduardo Cojuangco, a cousin of Mrs. Aquino.

Presidential spokesman Rene Saguisag said Mrs. Aquino was informed Wednesday that ministers and other associates of Marcos had cash advances worth 3.2 billion pesos which the government would try to recover. Much of it was given during last February's presidential election.

Jovito Salonga, minister for the commission on good government, returned home from the United States Wednesday and said he was confident much of the money Marcos is accused of plundering from the country could be recovered.

His mission was to track down Marcos' so-called "hidden wealth" abroad and he told reporters: "We have brought home the bacon."

Mr. Salonga has estimated that Marcos amassed up to \$10 billion in assets during his 20-year rule

which ended in February when he was toppled by a civilian-backed military revolt.

Ramon Diaz, a member of the commission on good government, said 34 companies belonging to Benedicto and Cojuangco had been sequestered but would be allowed to continue operations. Most are linked to agricultural operations.

Benedicto left the country before Marcos fell and Cojuangco fled with the ousted leader.

For Cojuangco, a staunch Marcos loyalist and longtime political foe of Mrs. Aquino's murdered husband Benigno, it was the second major setback in two days.

On Tuesday, 33 million shares worth more than three billion pesos (\$150 million) he controlled in San Miguel, Asia's biggest food and beverages company, were sold to former owners of the company, the Soriano family.

The sale was shrouded in mystery and stock brokers said there was speculation the shares actually belonged to Marcos.

Salonga told reporters the

commission was in possession of title deeds owned by Marcos amounting to 77 million square metres of prime land in the Philippines worth \$20 to \$25 million.

"A good portion of the ill-gotten wealth will be recovered although I cannot say at this point how long that would take because evidence comes in every day," he said.

The Swiss government has already frozen numbered accounts in several banks which were said to belong to Marcos.

Mr. Salonga has also brought back documents taken away by Marcos but handed over to him by Washington which U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz described as an "encyclopaedia of corruption."

Meanwhile in Olongapo striking civilian workers at the U.S. Subic Bay naval base Wednesday defied their union's back-to-work orders but did not resist when Philippine troops shifted pickets blocking a side entrance.

Military officials said there was no resistance when the soldiers physically lifted strikers out of the way and pushed aside their barricade at the base in Olongapo, about 80 kilometres north of Manila.

Several U.S. servicemen and Filipino non-union members were

seen entering the side gate, but the main entrance was still blocked by hundreds of strikers.

"The strike is not over yet," one worker said. "Even if they have opened one of the gates, most of the 16,000 unionists in Subic will not report to work anyway."

Base spokesman James Van Sickle said essential operations had not been hampered because U.S. servicemen and their dependents took over the jobs left by the Filipino workers.

Earlier, the strikers, waving sticks and throwing rocks, had forced back soldiers trying to dismantle barricades.

Workers, with their wives and children, shouted down union leader Roberto Flores when he tried to explain the terms of an agreement signed late Tuesday in Manila with Philippine and U.S. labour officials.

They were joined briefly at the picket lines overnight by bus drivers and scores of hostesses from the nightclubs and bars that thrive on the trade from Subic, the biggest U.S. naval base outside the United States.

A spokesman for the rebellious strikers said they would not obey orders to end the 12-day-old strike. "We have decided to change our union official and maintain the picket," he told reporters.

Seoul opposition to defy restriction on rally

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The main opposition party decided Wednesday to ignore a police ban on the use of outdoor loudspeakers at its rally this weekend in the south eastern city of Taegu.

The New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) also disclosed a stepped-up target of a 1 million signatures by the end of this month in support of constitutional revisions.

The opposition wants reforms to allow direct presidential elections. And contends that the current electoral-college system favours the government in power. President Chun Doo-Hwan says the opposition's campaign is illegal.

The party was planning to stage its next provincial rally on Saturday in the third-largest Korean city of Taegu, a traditional opposition stronghold. But national police on Monday told the party they would not allow the use of outdoor loudspeakers.

They claimed the opposition party used loudspeakers to "agitate" the crowds outside meeting places in two previous rallies by shouting radical anti-government slogans.

At an executive meeting Wednesday, NKDP President Lee Mon-Woo instructed party officials to disregard the police ban, calling it "ridiculous."

The party in February launched a petition campaign to collect 10 million signatures in favour of constitutional amendments.

Its original plan called for collecting 5 million names by Aug. 15, Korea's National Day. But decided Wednesday to get 1 million names by the end of this month to give a momentum to the drive, according to a party spokesman.

Meanwhile, a group of 42 professors Wednesday issued a statement supporting the opposition call for early constitutional revisions.

They were all from the Hankook Theological Seminary-Hanshin University, representing about 80 per cent of its faculty, a school official, who declined to be named, said.

The statement was issued in defiance of an Education Ministry warning against college professors not to engage in "political activities" in connection with the current opposition petition campaign.

Earlier in the day, the Kwangju district prosecutors' office formally arrested 32 people and referred 37 others to summary courts in connection with noisy demonstrations on Sunday following an opposition rally in the south western city.

U.S. vows to continue presence in S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Wednesday the United States would keep its forces in South Korea as long as Seoul needed them.

Mr. Weinberger told South Korean Defence Minister Lee Ki-Baek during annual security talks here: "Let me assure you that the United States will retain a military presence here as long as the people of Korea want and need that presence."

During diplomatic frictions between the two countries in the 1970s, then U.S. President Jimmy Carter planned to bring home the bulk of the 40,000-strong U.S. land, sea and air forces stationed here.

The Reagan administration scrapped the plan because of a perceived military threat from Communist North Korea against the South. Pyongyang has said moves

towards unifying the divided peninsula depend on withdrawal of all U.S. forces.

"Once your nation depended almost totally on the United States," Mr. Weinberger said. "You now have your own defence industry and support well-equipped and modern armed forces with minimal security assistance from the United States."

Mr. Lee told Mr. Weinberger the South's military strength still trailed that of the north but Seoul's security cooperation with Washington had "greatly contributed to peace in North East Asia and the world."

The two men said they would study security for this year's Asian Games and the 1988 Olympics, both in Seoul, including steps to prevent North Korea from sabotaging the events.

Crashed Mexican plane's flight recorder recovered

MEXICO CITY (R) — Rescue workers sifting through the wreckage of a Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 in which 166 people died when it crashed on Monday have found the flight recorder, a senior government official said.

Minister of Communications and Transport Daniel Diaz told reporters the airliner's flight data and voice recorders, which could shed light on the cause of the disaster, had been recovered in good condition.

A Mexicana official said experts from the Boeing aircraft company in Seattle were expected in Mexico to examine the recorders and wreckage to try to determine the cause of the crash, the worst in Mexican history.

Diplomats said at least eight French, four Swedes, three Canadians and an unknown number of U.S. citizens were on the plane when it slammed into a wooded mountain 120 kilometres from the capital 30 minutes after takeoff.

Witnesses said the Boeing, bound for Los Angeles from Mexico City with stopovers in two Mexican resorts, exploded in mid-air.

The pilot reported losing cabin pressure and altitude shortly before the crash but gave no reason.

Weeping relatives gathered at Mexico City's forensic medical centre Tuesday night to try and identify remains of their families.

Airline officials said most of the passengers were Mexicans headed for a delayed Easter holiday.

Rescuers searched till nightfall for bodies in the dense forest ravine above the hamlet of Pomocna in Michoacan state where the charred wreckage of the plane was strewn.

Ambulances and helicopters carried the bodies, many badly burnt, to a nearby makeshift morgue where they were placed in caskets and flown to the capital.

Airline officials said they expected 80 coffins to reach the for-

ensic centre by Wednesday. At nightfall only three bodies had been definitely identified at the centre in what medical sources said could be a long and painful procedure.

But embassy officials said Frenchman Xavier Lartilleux, a prominent businessman and long-time Mexican resident, and seven members of his family were on board the aircraft.

The Swedish embassy spokesman said his counsellor, Kerstin Enerfeldt, 49, her sister Anita Orelund, 45, and two sons Erik, 20, and Goran, 19, were also on board.

"It is possible the bodies may never be recovered, but we know for sure that Mrs. Enerfeldt and her family got on board," the spokesman said.

Graciela Flores Guadarrama, a stewardess aboard a plane that crashed 17 years ago, walked away unscathed from that accident which killed 18 people.

But the luck she borrowed in 1969 ran out Monday when she died, along with her husband and two young sons, aboard the plane her husband was flying.

Mrs. Guadarrama and her sons Rodolfo, 10, and Juan, 8, were travelling with special passes on their father's plane for a vacation he had promised them for years, friends said.

They said Captain Carlos Guadarrama was taking a few days off between flights to take the boys to Disneyland.

Capt. Guadarrama was one of Mexico's most experienced pilots, with 15,000 flight hours logged, a fact which has led airline officials to tend toward ruling out human error for the crash.

Graciela was a stewardess on the Mexicana Airlines plane that crashed on Sept. 21, 1969, in the Texcoco region on a flight from Chicago. She and 90 others walked from the wreckage shocked but alive, but 18 others died.



Ex-premier fined over airport incident

HONIARA (R) — Former Solomon Islands Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni was Wednesday fined 1,350 dollars (\$210) for a number of offences, including disorderly behaviour, at the country's international airport last month. A magistrate's court was told that Mr. Mamaloni, now the South Pacific state's opposition leader, had been drinking in the airport lounge before stopping a light plane from being refuelled by waving a cigarette close to the aircraft. Mr. Mamaloni, prime minister from 1981 to 1984, was found guilty of three offences: Carrying a lit cigarette within 15 metres of an aircraft being refuelled, disorderly behaviour and intimidation.

French 'ready to give up' TV addiction

PARIS (R) — One out of two French television viewers wants the screen blacked out at least one day a week to help cure what they see as a habit as bad as tobacco or alcohol, a public opinion poll said Wednesday. The poll, in the weekly film and television magazine *Telerama*, said 51 per cent of those interviewed favoured such a gradual phase-out of the nightly addiction which freezes the average viewer in front of the box for at least three hours a day. Asked how long they could live without TV, 37 per cent of the 1,000 people polled said forever, 27 per cent between a week and a month and 11 per cent admitted they were incapable of cutting the habit for even a day.

Marcos reportedly had kidney transplant

MANILA (R) — A Health Ministry official said Wednesday doctors and officials at a Philippine hospital told him he had deposed leader Ferdinand Marcos underwent a kidney transplant in 1984. Mario Taguiwalo, the ministry's special assistant for hospital operations, said he was told the surgery was performed at the government kidney foundation hospital in Manila's suburban Quezon. "That's what I learned from them at the kidney foundation," Taguiwalo told Reuters. He did not elaborate but named hospital officials who he said had given him the information. Marcos was rumoured to have had a kidney transplant in November 1984 when he disappeared from public view for weeks. He went on television in December and raised his shirt to show that he had no surgery scars.

U.S.-organised crime to make \$75 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — Organised crime in the United States will make more than \$75 billion this year and cost the country, 414,000 jobs, a presidential commission has reported. The Commission on Organised Crime estimated that rackets like drug trafficking, gambling and loan-sharking have become so widespread as to rival the size of the U.S. metal or textile industries. The commission report said organised crime this year would mean lost tax revenues of \$6.5 billion and drive up consumer prices in industries like construction, trucking and rubbish collection. The estimates were prepared for the commission by a private firm specialising in economic predictions.

The report was the commission's last after a 19-month investigation during which it also issued studies on drug smuggling, money laundering and mafia ties to labour. The commission said the mafia still dominated organised crime but identified more than 12 other emerging crime groups, some with strong Asian or Latin American links.

Pakistan offers \$12,500 for killed poppy growers

ISLAMABAD (R) — A tribal council in Pakistan has awarded compensation to the families of seven opium poppy growers killed in a gunbattle with police, the Associated Press of Pakistan said. It reported that the council, in Gadoon, North-West Frontier province, had decided on 200,000 rupees (\$12,500) for each death after shooting last month between security forces trying to bulldoze poppy crops and protesting growers. The council also agreed on 100,000 rupees (\$6,250) for each person crippled, 20,000 rupees (\$1,250) for the seriously wounded and 10,000 rupees (\$625) for minor injuries.

Gunmen kill 5 Bangladeshi tribesmen

RANGAMATI, Bangladesh (R) — Gunmen killed at least five tribesmen this week in Bangladesh's southern hill tracts district, the scene of a 12-year-old insurgency over demands for political autonomy, officials said Wednesday.

The tribesmen were killed in their homes by members of the tribal guerrilla group Shanti Bahini (peace force), which took up arms in early 1970s demanding autonomy for the 13,000 square kilometres district, which borders

India and Burma.

The five angered the guerrillas by supporting initiatives to restore peace in the area, the officials said. They declined to give details.

In a written statement last week, Shanti Bahini said the government planned to turn the tribesmen into a minority by moving people from the plains to the hills.

It also accused the government of trying to destroy their culture and of violating human rights and called for immediate evacuation

of an estimated 200,000 settlers.

The government said it only wanted to bring economic development and modernisation to the region.

The tribal campaign was set back when more than 3,500 rebels surrendered under an 18-month amnesty which ended last April. Military commanders said they hoped about 3,000 rebels still at large would lay down their arms soon.

S. African blacks return to school

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black South African schools re-opened after Easter Wednesday and early reports said many children were going back to class after a week-end appeal from parents and teachers for an end to school boycotts.

The Department of Education and Training, which is responsible for black education, said large numbers of pupils were going back to schools around Pretoria but eyewitnesses said the return was mixed in other areas.

The National Education Crisis Committee decided at the weekend to urge black pupils to end school boycotts they had been staging in opposition to the white-lead government. The committee called instead for a three-day national strike from June 16.

Black schools have been badly hit by boycotts over the past two years as pupils joined in the widespread black protests against apartheid. Protests have claimed about 1,400 lives since February 1984.

Eyewitnesses said thousands of pupils were streaming back to school in Soweto, the nation's biggest black township near Johannesburg. But they said the turnout in Cape Town schools was below expectations.

Pupils at Vosloorus, east of Johannesburg, stayed away because of a funeral Thursday of a suspected black guerrilla killed in a clash with police.

When schools closed for Easter on March 20, about 95 per cent of the 1.8 million black schoolchildren were attending classes in the nation's 7,500 schools reserved for blacks under the segregated education system, the Education Department said.

South Africa has an estimated 17,000 schools, but the balance are in the so-called independent homelands which are excluded from official statistics. The homelands were little affected by boycotts.

Police fired shotguns and tear gas overnight in continued protests, police headquarters said.

India again rejects proposed Bhopal settlement

NEW DELHI (AP) — The government said Wednesday it would accept only "full and fair compensation" for Bhopal poison gas victims and reiterated its opposition to a proposed settlement of \$350 million.

"All possible steps are being and will be taken to protect the interests of the victims and the public fully," Industry Minister Narayan Datt Tiwari told parliament.

Mr. Tiwari said the government does not recognise the tentative settlement with Union Carbide Corp., announced last week between the U.S.-based lawyers representing individual victims of the disaster.

"The government does not consider the amount of the alleged settlement adequate or fair or acceptable," Mr. Tiwari said in a written statement to the Lok Sabha, or governing Lower House.

More than 2,000 people were killed and 200,000 injured when methyl isocyanate gas leaked from Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Bhopal in December 1984. It is considered the world's worst industrial accident.

Mr. Tiwari's statement came only days after some American lawyers arrived in Bhopal seeking to persuade gas victims to sign forms accepting Union Carbide's compensation offer.

"The government can only settle for an amount which would provide full and fair compensation to all the victims and the damages to property and environment," Mr. Tiwari said.

He said the Indian government has exclusive right to represent all the victims under legislation passed by parliament last year.

Zhivkov opens Bulgarian party congress

SOFIA (R) — Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov Wednesday opened a congress of his Communist Party expected to set out an economic strategy stressing faster injection of high technology into the country's industry.

Central Committee Secretary Stoyan Mihailov told a pre-congress news conference Tuesday night that the main issue of the meeting would be how to carry out a "scientific and technological revolution" in Bulgaria.

The congress will discuss a Central Committee report on the five-year plan of 1981-86, which has fallen short of many targets due to drought and energy shortages, and will endorse guidelines for the next five years.

It will also discuss a series of theses for Bulgaria's economic and political development up to the year 2000.

The congress, attended by more than 2,000 delegates, would also adopt amendments to party rules, Mr. Mihailov said, but these would not be radical. He said the changes were necessary due to "new problems and a new stage of development."

The congress will provide pointers on how exactly the economic reform is to be done. Mr. Mihailov said it should start by June this year.

He also said a new labour code relaxing hiring, firing and wages, which was adopted by the National Assembly last month, would take effect next January.

The Soviet Communist Party has sent Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov to Sofia to head the Moscow delegation, which diplomats say will be watching Bulgaria's reform moves closely for any impact on its economic relations with the Soviet Bloc.

Bulgaria, traditionally Moscow's most loyal ally, was rebuked by the Soviet Union last year for a poor economic performance, and the arrival of such a senior Soviet leader was a sign Thursday that the strains in their economic relationship may be easing.

Mr. Mihailov said this congress would bring with Bulgarian precedent by holding a series of separate committee sessions to discuss specific issues of the economy, science, technology, education and social affairs.

"We expect a lively discussion," he said.

He also said that recent moves to restructure economic ministries and other economic institutions would be continued and there would be further changes in personnel.

Fresh allegations surface on Waldheim war record

NEW YORK (R) — Former U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim was involved in wartime intelligence operations against Greek resistance leader and former Prime Minister George Papandreou, according to the World Jewish Congress (WJC).

The WJC, probing Nazi war crime allegations against Dr. Waldheim, Tuesday released a report he signed on the activities of Papandreou, father of the present Prime Minister Andreas.

The WJC said this meant Dr. Waldheim, a candidate for the Austrian presidency, was involved in political intelligence under Gen. Alexander Loth who ran a brutal campaign against partisans in the Balkans and was executed by Yugoslavia in 1947.

George Papandreou became prime minister in 1964. He died in 1968.

The latest document was among several released by the WJC to bolster its charges, first made last month, that Dr. Waldheim was more than a translator in the Balkans during World War II as he has said.

Among the documents was one that said Dr. Waldheim was decorated by the Nazi puppet regime in Croatia for being on the operations staff of a German army unit that planned and executed the infamous Kozara Mountains massacre in West Bosnia in July 1942.

The WJC said Dr. Waldheim received a citation for taking part in the campaign in which 5,000 Yugoslavs were killed in West Bosnia in July 1942.

It said that as an intelligence officer of senior rank in Gen. Loth's army Dr. Waldheim personally delivered morning and evening briefings to one of Gen. Loth's chiefs of staff.

The charges led to calls in Congress that the Justice Department speed up its own investigation of Dr. Waldheim's past to determine if he should be barred from visiting the United States.

A spokesman for New York Congressman Stephen Solarz said he would introduce a resolution in the House of Representatives next week calling on President Reagan to formally ask the United Nations for its dossier on Dr. Waldheim.

The U.N. Commission of War Crimes has 40,000 files on people suspected of crimes during the war and the WJC says these include one of Dr. Waldheim.

Dr. Waldheim has persistently denied knowledge of atrocities in the Balkans. A spokesman for his campaign office said in Vienna Tuesday the new charges contained as little truth as the previous ones.

Dr. Waldheim had not taken part in the Kozara offensive, he said. His job had been only to compile reports.

Dr. Waldheim's autobiography makes no mention of service in Gen. Alexander Loth's army in the Balkans in the early 1940s.

Meanwhile allegations that Dr. Waldheim has a Nazi past worry Austrians far less than nine domestic scandals, according to a poll published Tuesday.

Results of the poll, in an early edition of Wednesday's mass-circulation *Kurier*, suggest only 27 per cent of Austrians find controversy around Dr. Waldheim's alleged Nazi past to be "truly disturbing."

Nine other scandals received higher ratings in the poll which involved 600 people and was carried out last week for the paper by the Imas Research Institute.

Heading the list with 71 per cent were a crisis in the state-owned engineering group Voest-Alpine and allegations of corruption in the Bundeslaender-Versicherung Insurance Group.

Third with 69 per cent came last year's scandal concerning the adulteration of Austrian wine with a poisonous sweetener.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1985 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ K1054 ♣ KJ83 ♣ Q54
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♠
What action do you take?

A. — Unless West has almost enough for a demand opening, it sounds as if your partner has a respectable hand but could not act because of length in opener's suit. You certainly must protect partner. A bid of two hearts is too unilateral. We prefer a double. In the balancing seat, that can be made with as few as 11 points. The double offers the flexibility of playing in any one of the unbid suits or no trump, or of penalizing the opponents should that be partner's want.

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A109 ♠ KQ32 ♠ KJ72 ♠ 65
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Dble Pass 1 ♠
2 ♠
What action do you take?

A. — You have exactly what you promised — a hand of opening bid strength with support for the unbid suits. Nothing has happened to improve your hand, Pass. If partner has a fair hand, he can bid again.

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 765 ♠ J982 ♠ KJ5 ♠ A62
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dble Pass 1 ♠
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
What action do you take?

A. — Partner is showing a better than minimum hand with a five-card spade suit. Since you have maximum values for your previous bid, you must make a strenuous effort to get to game. It is simply a matter of whether you should jump raise spades or bid some number of no trump. With almost half your values in the enemy suit, we prefer a jump to two no trump.

Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K873 ♠ J52 ♠ AK6 ♠ 72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
What do you bid now?

A. — Certainly, you want to be in game, but you don't know where you want to play the hand — either spades, clubs or no trump could be right. For the moment, bid three diamonds. Partner's next bid will help point the way.

Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J1053 ♠ AQJ52 ♠ 6 ♠ K82
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
What do you bid now?

A. — We don't see how partner could have less than six spades headed by three top honors and an outside ace. In that case, slam should depend on no more than a finesse, and could be laydown. We would trot out Blackwood and, if partner shows two aces, we would gamble on six spades. We don't even mind a direct leap to the spade slam.

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K762 ♠ AS2 ♠ A1052 ♠ 109
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass 1 ♠ Pass Pass
2 ♠ Pass Pass 3 ♠
What is your opening lead?

A. — Normally, you would deserve to be tarred and feathered if you did not lead partner's suit. Here, however, partner was bidding simply to stop the opponents from stealing the hand at the one-level, so he needs to have much of a suit. Don't punish him for his daring by leading the ace of diamonds. Our choice would be either a low trump or the ten of clubs, with a slight preference for the former.